



Falkland Islands Newsletter

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Features

Falkland Islands Association Newsletter

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Front page image: Lance Corporal Amy Guest, ADC to the Governor and a member of the Falkland Islands Defence Force on Liberation Day. Pic Katharyn Daniels



Editorial

by FIA Chairman Mr Russell La Forte CBE

So, after probably the most unsurprising General Election outcome in recent years, we have a new Government in Westminster, with an explicit manifesto commitment to continue to 'always defend' the sovereignty and right to self-determination of the Falkland Islands. This, combined with the warm words of David Lammy (the then Shadow Foreign Secretary) at the FIGO Reception hosted by the Speaker last year, is most reassuring, but we shall be holding them to it. A most welcome early step is the appointment of Stephen Doughty as an FCDO minister, a firm friend of, and recent visitor to, the Islands. After his recent confirmation of the Labour Party's "cast-iron commitment" I wish him well in his new appointment and commend the enclosed article regarding MLA Mark Pollard's recent, impressively timely meeting with him.

Reading the account by MLAs Barkman and Short of the most recent meeting of the Committee of 24 (C24) of the UN, I was pleased to hear of a shift, albeit only slight, amongst some members towards recognition of the right to self-determination as a (if not the) central issue in their deliberations. This is overdue and just reward for decades of tenacious, heartfelt lobbying by successive MLAs and junior ambassadors. Very early days and not a universal shift I know, but a more balanced approach amongst this important but traditionally tone-deaf UN committee, would be most welcome.

I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible, whether in person or virtually, at our FIA AGM and Reception on Battle Day (8 December) at the RAF Club in London. Last year, the Club proved to be an excellent and enjoyable venue, but taking account of your feedback, we have tweaked this year's format to provide a sit-down lunch, rather than a buffet, following the AGM. Further details may be found at page 27 of this Newsletter.

And so, to the Newsletter, within which I am always struck by the impressive range, diversity and quality of fascinating articles in successive editions. This one is no different (thanks to our redoubtable editor, Katharyn Daniels), and is testament of course, to the extraordinary vibrancy and confidence and of the Falkland Islands community. Finally, on behalf of the Executive Committee, may I take this opportunity to thank all members for their continued, valued support.

Desire the Right.

Tragic loss of life after Argos Georgia sinks

THE longliner *Argos Georgia* tragically sank in Falklands waters on July 22. Fourteen crew members were rescued, nine died and four were still missing, presumed dead, when search and rescue efforts were called off on July 24.

The vessel first requested assistance when it was some 200 miles east from the Falkland Islands as it was taking on water. The situation was said to have "deteriorated" over the afternoon and the crew of 27 abandoned ship.

Search and rescue attempts were made by BFSAI crews, *FPV Lilibet* and other fishing vessels in the area. Fourteen people were confirmed as being rescued on July 24.

Argos Foryanes, operator of the vessel, posted the following statement: "The tragic events of Monday the 22nd of July leading to the loss of thirteen of our Officers and Crew have been well documented and communicated by the Falkland Island Government.

"Today [July 27] all but one of the survivors left the Falkland Islands on a special flight kindly provided by the Government of Spain. Our remaining colleague will be on his way home shortly. On arrival in Galicia our Spanish

nationals will be returned to their families and the non-Spanish nationals will be looked after by us in Madrid and flown to their home countries as quickly as possible.

"Our fallen colleagues have left the Falklands in the care of the Coroner and, after formalities in the United Kingdom have been completed, will be returned to their loved ones.

"To list all of the organisations and individuals who have supported us would be impossible but we would like to express particular gratitude to: All departments of the Government of the Falkland Islands; The British Forces South Atlantic; The Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; Polar Seafish Ltd; *FV Puerto Toro* and *FV Robin M Lee*; Our colleagues in the wider fishing community and the people of the Falkland Islands and Saint Helena. Without your combined and strenuous efforts we would not be able to return so many to their families.

"The fishing industry is traditionally based on families. *Argos Froyanes* is a family company in all meanings of the word and this week we have lost brothers, fathers and sons. May The Lord grant them eternal rest."

Supporting the right of Falkland Islanders to decide their own future

The Secretary's Desk

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter.

The year seems to have flown by and we are currently planning the AGM which is due to be held on 8th December 2024 at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly, London. We have taken comments on board from last year's AGM and there will be tables available for the lunch which will be held after the AGM. We look forward to meeting members again in person and for those who are unable to attend, the meeting can be accessed via Zoom.

On the administrative front, our new website is up and running and despite some initial challenges, the website is slowly being "populated" with new stories. I am pleased to thank SSL/FITV for supplying us with some content. I would also ask any members who have any interesting stories/features to contact us so we can look to placing them on the new website.

The UK has now had its General Election and the Association welcomes the very positive support from the new Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary regarding the Islanders' right to self-determination.

We would also like to thank the Falkland's Government and their representative in London for all their



Tom Swales
Hon Sec

support of the Association – it is greatly appreciated.

The Association would like to offer condolences to the families of the Fishermen who lost their lives during the tragic incident of the *Argos Georgia* earlier in the year. This tragedy highlights both the dangers and bravery facing all those fishing in the South Atlantic.

Once again, we have listed all the members who sit on the Executive and Falkland Islands Committees in this

newsletter. We appreciate and thank all those members who give up their time in the UK and the Islands to make sure that the Association runs smoothly.

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The Falkland Islands Association brings together those who support the continuing freedom of the people of the Falkland Islands. Its constitution states that its aim is "to support the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future."

The Association is independent but maintains close links with many other Falklands' organisations. It is a major source of information about the Falklands. It welcomes interest in the Falklands and invites all those who share its aims to become members.

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

‘Moving the dial’ at C24 claims MLA

MEMBER of Legislative Assembly Gavin Short believes Assembly Members attending the Committee of 24 at the United Nations are starting to “move the dial a bit.”

MLA Short referred to convincing countries at the C24 of people’s right to self determination.

MLAs Teslyn Barkman and Gavin Short visited Washington DC as part of a small Falklands Delegation in June ahead of the C24 which took place on June 18.

MLA Short said that the trip had “gone rather well” in terms of meeting members of political parties in Washington “up on the hill as well as in the State Department.”

He said in New York they had spent their time in some “pretty heavy lobbying sessions.”

MLA Barkman said the trip had been to highlight the self determination of the Falkland Islands people - that had been the theme that had “been well heard by most of the audiences they had met,” but there had also been opportunities taken to talk about fisheries regulation and the damage of unregulated fisheries through the world. She said that the opportunity had been taken to raise the profile of the Falklands more generally “with our global partners.”

Speaking specifically of the C24 MLA Short said it was the, “most encouraging session I’ve ever had in that room,” indicating that a number of countries had begun to speak of the “rights of people’s self determination; some are still talking about interests which I find rather colonial, rather disappointing... but I think we are starting to move the dial bit by bit.”

MLA Barkman acknowledged that was reassuring but said “it was obviously not great sitting in that audience and listening to other countries ask for bilateral conversations between the UK and Argentina...”

She said that did not reflect the Falklands position as a “modern society.”

She added: “The Falkland Islands people are the only people that have a right to talk about our future and a bilateral conversation is not appropriate.”

Of the C24 MLA Short said: “We are chipping away at this bit by bit - it’s a long long journey. We are not going to give an inch and one day I hope the world will wake up and realise that we the people of the Falkland Islands will say what can happen to and in our country.”

MLA Barkman found it, “certainly

heartening that more countries out there are supporting our right to self determination. It is a position of truth and is only supporting our basic rights as enshrined in the UN charter and it is a reminder that engagement works..... we need to go out there and build those links.”

Falkland Islands Junior

Ambassador Benjamin Bahamonde Wastavino who accompanied the MLAs said after spending time at the C24 he now appreciated how much work went into defending the Islanders right to self determination.

He added that it was disheartening to see the continued attitude from the opposing side but that was expected. It was good to see some progress, however, and “we just have to keep pushing.” He

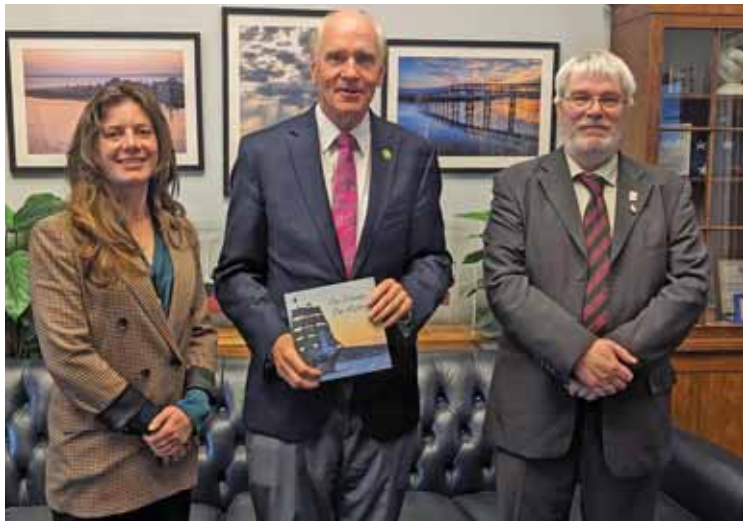
thanked the MLAs for the “once in a lifetime opportunity.”

Apart from the C24 the delegation met with:

- International NGOs to discuss environmental, science, and fisheries activities in the Falklands.

- Congressional staffers on Capitol Hill to highlight a range of Falklands challenges and opportunities.

- Representatives of various nations to the Organisation of American States (OAS) to



Above: MLAs Teslyn Barkman and Gavin Short with Congressman Bill Keating. Pic Nicholas Roberts. Below: The Falklands delegation at the British Embassy in Washington. L-R: Nicholas Roberts, Gavin Short, Teslyn Barkman and Benjamin Bahamonde Wastavino. Pic Adam Pile.

advocate for the Falklands’ right to self-determination.

- Representatives of the British Embassy in Washington to reinforce the strong and modern relationship with the United Kingdom.

- Members of the US House of Representatives and Senate, including productive discussions with Congressman Bill Keating and Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart.



MLA presses importance of Islands to new Government

MEMBER of Legislative Assembly Mark Pollard said in a meeting with a Labour Minister in July that he pressed the strategic importance of the Falklands to the UK and her allies “in terms of military, environmental, science, the UK’s gateway to Antarctica and in terms of other Overseas Territories.”

MLA Pollard met with Minister of State Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Stephen Doughty who visited the islands two years ago.

MLA Pollard said: “We felt it was essential to get in early to see the new Labour Government in the UK so that we could update them on our current priorities. Very kindly Minister Doughty gave us a face to face meeting at little notice and only days into his role as Minister.”

He added: “People in the Falklands may remember Stephen Doughty MP from his visit two years ago. He certainly remembers the visit and mentioned by name some of the people he met in our meeting.

“The Minister was also our Shadow Minister in the previous Parliament and met regularly with MLAs and FIGO to keep himself apprised of our issues. We had a very good meeting with our Chief Executive, Director of Natural Resources



Stephen Doughty MP meets MLA Mark Pollard

and FIGO representative all there as well.”

He said they congratulated the Minister on the election and his new role within the Government and thanked the UK Government for their continued support for our right to self-determination.

They also spoke about trying to “get the Brazil flight back up and running, the fisheries science and data exchange and the removal of Argentine sanctions. We also spoke about our hydrocarbons work and gave an update on the progress.”

MLA Pollard said Brexit was discussed

and work on removing tariffs and quota’s as well as access to environmental funding.

“Our joint working with MOD and further progressing those relationships and projects was discussed,” said MLA Pollard.

Also discussed were issues such as banking, frozen pensions, the Blue Hole, the over exploitation of Illex on the high seas and the continuation of the Overseas Territories strategy.

He concluded: “In all, a very positive meeting in which the Minister was already well briefed, but keen to hear more about our issues.”

After the Labour Party victory in the election on July 4 the Falklands Government extended its congratulations to the party and Keir Starmer on his election as Prime Minister.

MLAs said they were particularly pleased to note that the Labour Party acknowledged the significance of the UK’s Overseas Territories, including the Falkland Islands, in their campaign with the below statement in their manifesto.

“Defending our security also means protecting the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, including the Falklands and Gibraltar. Labour will always defend their sovereignty and right to self-determination.”

Oil EIS public consultation

A TOTAL of 25 representations were received in response to the public consultation on Navitas’ environmental impact statement about oil development.

Executive Council sat on June 17 to discuss whether the environmental impact statement, as submitted by Navitas about the proposed offshore oil field development, was legislatively compliant before it was approved for public consultation.

The proposal concerns drilling 23 wells and the production of more than 300 million barrels of oil over 30 years in the North Falkland Basin, some 220km north of the Falkland Islands.

Navitas acquired a 65% working stake in the oil project in 2022, and while the project they propose is similar to previous, there are “substantial differences.”

The ExCo paper from June 17 explains that the proposals have a longer field life, fewer but more productive wells, a different subsea layout and a smaller production vessel. This means that a

new environmental impact statement had to be presented, regardless of ones approved in 2018 and 2020.

MLA Leona Roberts, who sits on ExCo, explained that this consultation was just “one more step” in a “lengthy process” but is “an important one.”

The consultation was run by Navitas, with feedback reports going back to ExCo at the end of the consultation period. MLA Roberts explained, “It’s Navitas’ environmental impact statement so it’s for them to deliver. While government will be watching and very interested in how it goes, government isn’t involved in delivering that piece.”

MLA Roberts stated that, “it is important that people do engage with the consultation, if it were to go ahead it would be a very significant development for the Falklands.”

When asked whether it was right that oil extraction is still being explored given a global move toward renewable energies, MLA Roberts added “if oil were

to proceed here... everything would be put in place to make sure it would be delivered as safely and environmentally consciously as humanly possible and so it’s right that we explore it. All those things will be considered as part of the process.

“We’ve been clear that we will go through all the steps and make that decision whichever way as and when the time comes.”

The public consultation first opened on June 24, with a revised EIS later issued and new consultation period opening on July 2, which ran until August 13.

Navitas were given 28 days to respond to the submissions given by members of the public, businesses and other organisations before providing FIG with a response. This could result in revisions to the EIS which will be presented to ExCo and the public submissions and Navitas’ response will be made public.

Petition for Starlink internet attracts over 2,000 signatures

A ROUND of applause was given as the Starlink Petition Group announced on July 11 that 2,416 signatures were received for the petition, calling for a reduction or abolition in the VSAT licence fee, along with regulatory approval to be given for Starlink devices.

15-year-old FICS student Daniel Lee, presented the figures; 185 Camp signatures, 717 from MPC, and 1,482 from Stanley. He told the audience that he joined the group because he, along with his peers, found that the slow internet speeds “hindered educational progress” and could make them feel “isolated.”

He explained that he had gone around the school and asked fellow students what their issues and concerns were with the internet so that he could include them in his speech, “I feel quite strongly about it.”

During the well organised presentation the group demonstrated how easily a Starlink device could be set up, discussed the difference in internet provision between Starlink, OneWeb and Sure, and spoke about their reasons for setting up the campaign.

Simon Verrechia, chairman of the group, also read a statement from Chief Executive, Andy Keeling, in which he

stated that he has now had meetings with SpaceX about issuing regulatory approval in the Falkland Islands.

The petition group hope that this step will mean domestic packages can be purchased for Starlink at a lower cost to the currently available global roaming package - around £300 a month.

The petition was presented by MLA Roger Spink to the Legislative Assembly on July 25. Following this a select committee was set up, with the first meeting held on August 1.

During his speech Mr Verrechia stated that they “hope for swift action” and this issue is “too urgent for a protracted select committee debate.” He concluded by stating that they see a conclusion by October 2024 as being a reasonable timetable.

A brief question and answer session was held, with members of the public expressing some of their frustrations with the current provision. It was asked whether, should the licence fee alter, those who had already paid would receive a refund. MLAs said they could not commit to this until it had been discussed.

One individual stated that a select committee process had been gone

through back in 2016 and did not achieve much. Asking whether MLAs now “understand the expectation of action now?”

MLA Roberts said she was unable to speak for those making decisions in 2016 but added that work was going on in the background and was being taken seriously.

A member of the Assembly at the time, MLA Short stated that the 2016 decision was taken on the information available at the time, and things have changed quickly. He told the crowd, “If I have my way I will clear up the mess I started in 2016.”

Speaking afterwards Simon Verrechia, said, “it’s gone better than I expected. We can’t see why by October 2024 this shouldn’t all be complete... in the group we all agree that’s a realistic timescale.”

MLA Spink commented following the meeting, “I think it impressed upon me how much feeling there is throughout the whole community all across the Falklands that there is a need for change and as a matter of urgency, we need to get on with it and start fixing some of these things as far as we can.”

Falklands’ Girl Guiding saved

JUST over a year ago, Girl Guiding in the Falkland Islands looked like it was facing a bleak future. UK Girl Guiding had announced that British Guiding Overseas were no longer going to operate. This meant that Girl Guiding groups throughout Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the Overseas Territories would be closed

The Overseas Territories put forward a case to try and repeal the ruling. Guiding in British Overseas Territories means that the groups have their own charitable status and constitution.

In the Falklands, the Girl Guides are spread over four units: Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers with a total membership of over 60 girls.

Finally, after a proposal was put together and accepted, the Falklands’ Guides can join a UK region, just like the Guiding groups of Crown Dependencies.

Guiding will continue as they have been doing and will transition into North West England Region. The new Commissioner of the Guides in the Falkland Islands, Terri Biggs, said that they may need to make some amendments to their Association’s



Falklands’ Guides thrilled at what the future might hold.

constitution. By September 1, they should be fully incorporated.

“Girl Guiding has always been part of my life,” said Terri. “Guiding provides girls with experiences, knowledge, and skills for the future, learning through organised activities and from others outside of the school programme.

“It gives independence, it’s being

part of a wider family having global sisters.”

Throughout the process, the Falklands’ Guides have had other Guiding groups lobbying for them, as well as MLAs, UK Members of Parliament, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and Richard Hyslop, the UK Representative for the Falkland Islands.

The future of Guiding in the Falklands is now looking very positive. “We will be attending international activities to widen the girls’ experiences as well as giving the girls opportunities locally to explore the islands,” said Terri.

“On behalf of the Falkland Islands Girl Guide Association, I would like to thank all of those who supported us and lobbied on our behalf to get us to the final destination. We would especially like to thank our outgoing Commissioner Cherie Clifford for her hard work and dedication to not only this, but to all of Girl Guiding for the past 13 years.”

Turn to page 19 to read about the Rangers recent UK trip.

Hell's Kitchen mines deemed an anomaly

THREE mines found on the Murrell Peninsula have been disposed of, with no further mines found.

Following the find by two Stanley residents last November, ExCo approved a clearance plan for Explosive Ordnance Advisor Guy Marot to review the site.

Four weeks of clearance activity at Hell's Kitchen beach concluded earlier this year with no further mines found. A local team was assembled to review the site: Kurt Whitney, Shupi Chipunza, Admire Mambo and medic Oly Dempster. Shupi and Admire both helped during the ten-year demining programme, and Kurt was recently involved in the Bennett's Paddock work.

Guy Marot said, "In 2019/2020 we cleared Hell's Kitchen. We found 16 mines over a 124 metre strip towards the middle of Hell's Kitchen and then carried on as we normally do for a further 75 metres. Found nothing and came to this stone escarpment and we stopped.

"These mines were found a little bit round the corner along the escarpment in a place that was completely tactically nonsensical for them to have been laid.

"We needed to look at why they were there, were there any other places on the Murrell they could have been laid under similar circumstances?"

The clearance plan meant the team dug down 20cm across the main shelf area, and ultimately found the three mines initially observed. Two other objects had originally been identified from a distance



Above: Kurt Whitney excavates some of the beach at Hell's Kitchen.

Below: surveying the scene. Pics Oly Dempster.

but were "erroneously identified as mines."

Some general detritus including a couple of safety caps and a couple of transit caps from the packaging of mines when first laid were also found.

After finishing work at Hell's Kitchen, the team undertook a wider review of the Murrell to check other locations mines could have been laid and found, "no other circumstance where this could have been the case.

"I have come to the conclusion that this wasn't nuisance mining. It's rather more of a case of a soldier who'd got some mines and sort of dumped them.

"In my experience this is just one of those odd things someone has done. We'll never know for sure."

The mines were inspected before being incinerated on the beach, with Mr Marot concluding that "none of these would function" due to crucial parts being damp.

While the likelihood of another instance of finding mines like this is "pretty unlikely," Mr Marot said: "This I put down to being a really strange anomaly that sits outside all of our experience from everything else that was done.

"It was certainly worthwhile getting this clearance work done, if nothing else it satisfies our issue and I don't have a significant loss in confidence in the work that's been done before."



1p and 2p coins a thing of the past?

A RECOMMENDATION to remove one and two pence coins from circulation has been approved by Executive Council.

Following a recent public consultation about the proposals to remove these low denomination coins due to increasing costs of minting them, 71% of the 101 respondents said they were in favour of the proposal, with 63% of respondents saying they 'rarely' use these coins.

Financial Secretary Pat Clunie said of the next steps: "we are preparing an ExCo paper for April to recommend that the coins are withdrawn. We hope that will be ratified at ExCo at which point we will then need to engage further with the general public and also the retailers."

The proposed removal of the one and two pence coins will come with a suggestion to implement the Swedish Rounding System. The system works by rounding the total of your bill to the nearest zero or five pence if paying by cash.

When asked about the low numbers

of responses and whether that would justify this change Management Trainee Torin Harte said that: "the intention for the survey was to garner public opinion as opposed to that being the driving force behind the proposal.

"The guiding force behind the proposal is the dwindling supply of one and two pence coins, people are not spending them.

"If there was a massive public outcry against withdrawing those coins, then the Treasury might have to rethink the proposal. Because there are all these other reasons motivating the need to withdraw those coins."

Mr Clunie added: "it was a small sample that came back but it was overwhelmingly yes. If there was a desire not to see them go one would have expected to see that coming through on the survey and that was not the case."

Following approval from ExCo the Treasury will seek to engage with the public to explain the change to the

Swedish Rounding System.

Running alongside the coin consultation was another to seek views on the redesign of the banknotes.

Stocks of five pound notes are dwindling, and any reprint would require some level of redesign anyway.

Native Plants and Animals, Camp Life, and Historic Landmarks were the top three themes the public want to see on new notes with 72% of respondents saying they would still like to see the Monarch depicted on notes.

Redesigning banknotes is "a long process" said Mr Clunie, and the popular themes that came out of the survey will be provided to a banknote printer who will then put those into a design, "our intention then is to have two or three draft themes for each note and go back to the public with these options for a vote."

It is also likely that new notes will be made from polymer.

Newly released *Sir Galahad* files 'exonerate' Welsh Guards

RECENTLY declassified documents from the Falklands War "exonerate" the Welsh Guards for the loss of life during the June 8 bombing of *Sir Galahad*.

48 crew were killed when the unarmed and undefended supply ship was hit by Argentine bombs in the waters near Fitzroy in 1982.

In the years following the attack the Welsh Guards have been blamed by some for remaining on board, with it being said they had disobeyed orders in doing so.

The release of the previously classified files shows however that no order to leave the ship was made. The BBC have reported that the file says, "at no time was a direct order to disembark given to Major Sayle by a superior officer."

The documents come from an inquiry the Royal Navy held into the bombings of *Sir Galahad* and *Sir Tristram*, the findings of which were meant to remain classified until 2065.

A campaign to release these documents included veterans, families and Welsh MPs offering cross party support.

One of which, Stephen Doughty MP, explained that he got involved with the campaign after being approached by a constituent, and his keen interest in the Falklands following his visit during the 40th Anniversary commemorations.

Of the campaign Mr Doughty said, "finally they've got hold of at least two of the documents that were closed and that can help start to provide some of the answers they were seeking about what really happened in the run up to the events and afterwards as well.

"They've had a very clear statement in writing from the Ministry of Defence... and there's been a statement in the House of Commons completely exonerating the Welsh Guards for any blame for the terrible events that day.

"I think that's meant an immense amount to veterans that I've spoken to."

Mr Doughty added that he was "glad" to have been "able to play a small part in what really is their campaign in trying to get these documents released."

While the two documents are not the full set of files from the inquiry, and there

are more that are currently still classified, Mr Doughty explained that he thinks the two released were "particularly important" and will now help historians and Welsh Guards veterans gain a "much more accurate and fuller picture of what really happened."

He expects the group will continue to campaign and raise awareness of the issues, "they do feel that their reputation and their stories were unfairly represented throughout history.

"Crucially I think it's that clear statement from ministers and others that the Welsh Guards have no blame for what happened that day, and not only that but that their sacrifice and courage is truly recognised by their country."

There are "complex" laws around the declassification of documents, with Mr Doughty saying it was not for him to speculate why these particular ones had not been released, but adding that there was "concern" that they had not been, given that other documents relating to the conflict had been made public.

Falklands Warrarh re-discovered in NZ

LONG been extinct, a new specimen of the Falkland Islands wolf, or Warrarh, has recently been revealed at a New Zealand Museum.

The specimen has been kept on display in the museum for 150 years and was originally thought to be part of the same animal as existing bones in the Natural History Museum in London.

However genetic DNA analysis, using a toepad from the skin and X-ray imaging showing the skeleton, have identified this as a new specimen. Meaning there are 13 individual animals known in existence.

Associate Professor Nic Rawlence "discovered" the specimen at Tūhura Otago Museum while sampling moa bones for his PhD nearly 20 years ago, and took a sample for ancient DNA analysis.

The specimen was examined in more detail as there was a genetic similarity between the taxidermied Warrarh and bones that were housed in London. Co-author on the paper and Curator of Natural History at the museum, Kane Fleury, explained, "To determine if there was any merit in this assumption and doubt cast on the individuality of the specimen, we x-rayed it and conducted a thorough historical study on the origins of how our wolf arrived in Dunedin in New Zealand.

"When we reviewed the x-ray images it was incredible to see how much of the

skeleton was within our mount as well as the skull."

The specimen arrived at the Otago Museum in 1875, a year before the species was declared extinct. The research into how this item came to be there has revealed that it is likely to have arrived in one of two consignments from London.

Mr Fleury went on to explain, "The x-rays also provide insight into the taxidermist and methods he used. If you look closely at the images you can see nails and pins that were used in the process of holding the skin to the form that was sculpted."

It was revealed during this research that renowned Otago Museum taxidermist Edwin Jennings would have prepared the specimen, and a photo of the museum in 1890 shows the specimen hidden behind

one of a leopard in a display case.

Mr Fleury added that a "considerable" amount of work went into ensuring they knew the origins of the Warrarh's arrival at their museum, mostly by Dr Rosi Crane, as part of a wider project about the origins of specimens and how they reached Otago Museum.

With the 13th individual specimen of this species being uncovered nearly 150 years after its extinction, Mr Fleury was asked if it is likely there are more out there, "potentially there are.

"During the Victorian era and continuing today is a real lust for rare taxidermied specimens that circulate amongst private collectors. There may very well be more of these extinct animals sitting in someone's personal house or museum that are not known to scientists."

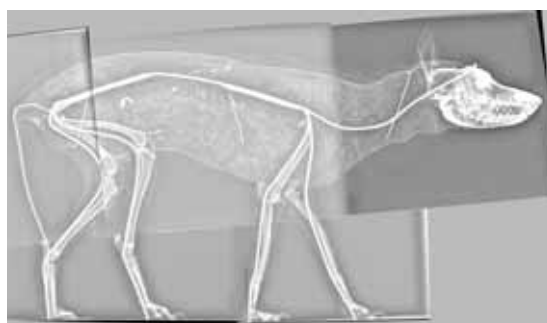


FIG to start work on equalities provisions

WORK to look at modernising equalities legislation in the Falkland Islands has begun following approval from Executive Council two years ago.

Equalities Policy Advisor Danielle Humphries explained that, “the equalities legislation in the Falkland Islands is incomplete and further work is required to not only modernise the legislation but also to ensure it reflects and signals the type of discriminatory behaviours and practices that are not acceptable in society.”

The work Ms Humphries will look at will begin with looking at jurisdictions such as the UK, Guernsey and Jersey that have recently gone through a similar process to see “what worked well for them and perhaps what didn’t go so well.”

She expanded on this, “it’s not about lifting something from another country, but of course we can look at the lessons learnt, we can look at the standards already out there and take what we can from that.

“But it’s about making it appropriate for the Falkland Islands, it’s got to be proportionate.”

Alongside evaluating what work has taken place elsewhere in the world, research into what matters affect the Falklands will take place as well as community engagement, “we want to take a real open approach to decision making and show that it’s transparent and collaborative as possible.

“We want to ensure that everyone who wants to feed into the research and the decision making process have the opportunity to do so.”

Having taken two years from Executive

Council approval to get started on this project, it is expected to take time to complete with an initial hope legislation will be in force within ten years. Ms Humphries admitted, “I know that sounds like a long time frame, but the assumption is it will probably be sequenced. There’ll be a sequenced introduction of legislation.

“But the first phase, the research and discovery with the initial policy development, we envisage it will take two to three years. But we want to start reaching out to the community in the next two to three months.”

Despite these lengthy time frames it is also anticipated that other work will be visible in the interim such as training, awareness or creation of policy.

The work will take a broad look at what characteristics should be legally protected from discrimination in the Islands, as well as scenarios where that might apply.

Compliance and enforcement will also be considered, “if there’s lots of legislation in place, how does that work in practice? What guidance do we need to provide? How can we best resolve issues for people if discrimination does happen?”

Some of the key priorities Ms Humphries mentioned for this piece of work are “getting it right for the people in the Falkland Islands” as well as race, “the race relations ordinance from 1994 whilst passed remains un-commenced” and “ensure that we’re compliant with international conventions” that have been applied to the Falkland Islands.

OBE for Keith Biles

SPEAKER of the Legislative Assembly, Keith Biles, has been awarded an OBE - Order of the British Empire - in the King’s Birthday Honours.

Mr Biles was bestowed the honour for services to the community in the Falkland Islands.

A former bank manager for Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), Mr Biles arrived in the Islands in 1995, and left SCB in 2002. He has been Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the past 15 years.

Responding to the news Mr Biles said: “It’s a tremendous honour.

“Getting involved in the Charities sector of society is rewarding in itself, but it is specially so when it is recognised by the award of something like the OBE.

“Charity work, and indeed the other more formal posts which I hold, are not solo activities. All require the participation of many others: staff, colleagues and volunteers and those, often unsung, heroes are to be thanked for the support they have given me.”

Mr Biles is currently a trustee or member of seven different charities or committees including the Lighthouse Seafarers Mission, Citizens Advice Bureau and Falklands Conservation. He has also served as a Justice of the Peace and as a member of the Tax Appeal Tribunal.

Mr Biles added: “It is also vital to have the encouragement of one’s family, and I am extremely grateful for the assistance I receive from my wife, Kathy, without whom I would not be able to contribute the time and effort to the positions that I hold.”

Honourary MBE for Phillimon Gonamombe

FORMER Demining Operations Manager, Phillimon Gonamombe, has been appointed an Honourary Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) by His Majesty The King for Mr Gonamombe’s exceptional services to safety on the Falkland Islands.

Mr Gonamombe led and motivated his team throughout the 11-year demining project in the Falkland Islands, which saw the Islands declared mine free in 2020.

A press release from Government House and the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly described the daily challenges faced by Mr Gonamombe and his team, “mined areas were often mountainous,

laid in low lying sodden peat, on remote coastal peninsulas or buried deep under dunes.”

MLA Leona Roberts commented, “Phillimon was central to maintaining the spirit and moral of the Zimbabwean demining team who were renowned by the Falkland community as ‘brave men’ who met adversity with a smile.

“He encouraged his team to become an integral part of the close-knit Falklands community.

“Many former deminers have since settled on the islands with their families, a lasting testament to Phillimon’s decade long dedication. Many congratulations.”

Recognition for Islanders

ALISON Dodd and Troyd Bowles have been awarded the King’s Certificate and Badge of Honour.

Announced on Falklands Day, Mrs Dodd’s award was issued in recognition of her “selfless contribution of time and energy to various Falkland Islands community activities as well as her dedication to fundraising efforts in the Islands.”

Mr Bowles’ award was given for his “selfless and admirable dedication to organised sports in the Falkland Islands, particularly football, providing a hardworking example for young players, supporting both their sporting and personal development.”

A formal presentation of the awards will take place at a later date.



Above L-R: Alexis Zamora Pimental, Oly Dempster, Anthony Davies, David Morris, Barry Thacker, Louise Tanner, Stephen Bennett, Jeremy Henry, Gene Berntsen, Ellis Smith, Mhairi-Anne Henry, Marianna Kajut, Mark Dalton and Ian Sargent. Inset: the medals. Medals were also awarded to a number of staff who were on call and unable to attend the event.

Coronation medals awarded

SEVERAL Government House Receptions have taken place over the past few months, to present individuals with Coronation Medals.

Members of the Falkland Islands Defence Force who served during the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla and who took part in the coronation itself, marching in the procession in London were first presented with the special medals. Representatives of the emergency services were bestowed the awards on May 29.

Acting Governor Dave Morgan told the assembled crowd those who attended the King's Coronation just over a year ago received medals for attending as a "thank you" from the UK. The Government then decided it would be "appropriate for all other uniformed military, prison services, police services and those other emergency services personnel who deal

with emergency response" to receive a medal - in total around 400,000.

MLA Jack Ford thanked those who work in the emergency services, "thank you for everything you do in keeping us safe and helping keep the peace and stability of the community and playing that vital role in responding to emergencies and being there when we're most in need."

The third King's Coronation Medal Ceremony was held in the Falklands in June, this time at the Historic Dockyard Museum.

All members of the Museum team were awarded the medal for their great efforts in organising the Coronation weekend events in the Falkland Islands last year.

MLA Leona Roberts gave a speech commenting on how the team "worked incredibly hard to pull together the events over the King's Coronation and to make

sure that everyone in our community had the opportunity to be part of that incredible event."

She thanked the team on behalf of the Falklands community.

During the coronation the team organised a Fancy Dress Party, Royal Tea Party, Big Lunch, Volunteer Expo, the Big Concert, rock painting on the Camber and litter picking. The schedule also included work in the Conservation Garden.

Medals were presented to Andrea Barlow, the late Gary Tyrrell represented by his family, Tasmin Tyrrell, Sandra Alazia, Emma Goss, Tara Hewitt and Teena Ormond.

Finally the Fire Service were awarded their coronations medals at a Government House reception in August.



Above left: The Falkland Islands Defence Force Members. Above right: The Falkland Islands Fire and Rescue team. Right: The Museum team L-R Sandra Alazia, Tasmin Tyrrell with niece Nevaeh, Emma Goss, Teena Ormond, Gina Tyrrell, Harry (with Andrea Barlow's medal) and Tara Hewitt.

Bill to modernise hate crime laws

CHANGES to two key ordinances relating to criminal law have been passed by Legislative Assembly and gazetted.

The Crimes Ordinance 2014 and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Ordinance 2014 are regularly reviewed, and changes are made once approval is given. Executive Council approved 10 such changes which, after select committee, were passed by Legislative Assembly.

Hate crimes and hate speech offences are already included in Falkland Islands law, and currently include racially or religiously aggravated assault, harassment or criminal damage.

The changes to the Bill intend to modernise current hate crimes and hate speech laws, increasing the number of protected characteristics (adding disability, transgender identity, and variations in sex characteristics), and improve protections for freedom of speech.

There are currently 12 separate criminal offences covering hate speech and the Bill aims to consolidate them into three offences which apply to all types of hate speech behaviour.

The right to freedom of expression is not an absolute right and it must be balanced against other rights such as the right not to be subjected to threatening, abusive, or harassing behaviour.

Currently, a private conversation is one that takes place within a dwelling. Under the new Bill, that will extend to where a person reasonably intends their conversation to be private, regardless of their location.

With regards to domestic abuse, the Bill aims to extend the limitation period for offences to two years from the date of the alleged offence. Cases are required to be prosecuted within six months of the date of being reported.

Undertaking, aiding and encouraging female genital mutilation is currently a criminal offence, however the current

law does not protect all residents equally and the Bill amends the law so that it applies to all people who are resident in the Falkland Islands. The Bill also introduces a new criminal offence of failing to protect a girl under the age of 16 from FGM. The Bill also gives the court the power to make a FGM protection order by preventing people from leaving the Falkland Islands where there is risk of FGM taking place abroad.

The Crimes Ordinance 2014 contains a number of criminal offences which apply to producing, selling, importing and carrying weapons. The Bill will increase the current maximum sentences for a number of weapon offences to reflect the serious harm they can cause. The Bill will also extend the offences relating to having weapons on school premises to include Falklands College.

It has been 10 years since the Crimes Ordinance was brought into law and since then technology has moved on, especially with social media and other instant communication applications.

Some online and intimate image offending can be prosecuted under existing criminal offences, but this needs modernising as it does not cover all types of online and intimate image offending.

The criminal offences are: sending a communication with intent to cause distress; improper use of the communications network; sending a false communication; sending a threatening communication; sending a flashing image to a person with epilepsy; encouraging or assisting serious self-harm; sending an image or film of genitals; recording a film or image of a person breast-feeding a child without consent; and disclosing private sexual images. The maximum penalty for these offences range from one to five years in prison.

Some low-level road traffic offences will be able to be dealt with by a fixed penalty notice rather than prosecuting cases in court.

The current law provides a high standard of protection for vulnerable adults and children, but a Government review identified that there are areas of the law which require updating. The Bill will increase the maximum sentence for causing or allowing the death of a vulnerable adult or child as well as protecting those from ill-treatment or willful neglect by care workers and care providers.

Improved protections from sexual offences are also covered by the Bill. Those people who are subject to notification requirements will have to notify the police if they intend to be absent from their home address for more than three days. Similarly, those who have been convicted of a sexual offence overseas will then be required to be subject to notification requirements here in the islands.

Sex-based harassment in public can currently be prosecuted under a number of different criminal offences depending on the type of behaviour involved. However, the law required updating to ensure that people are sufficiently protected from this type of harassment. Under the Bill it will be a criminal offence for someone in a public place to behave in a way that causes the victim alarm, distress or humiliation; because of the victim's sex, or presumed sex; where the offender knew, or ought to have known, that the behaviour would cause the victim alarm, distress or humiliation. The maximum penalty for this offence is imprisonment for two years.

"The Government has a commitment," said Crown Counsel Mr Stuart Walker, "to regularly review the criminal law to make sure it remains up to date and effective."

The legislation can be found in the Falkland Islands Gazette Supplement No 4 dated April 8 2024, and the accompanying Executive Council paper is available online.

MLAs focussing on focus groups

MLAs want to hear a range of opinions from all sections of Falklands society to help inform the decision making behind Government policy.

New focus groups will be set up to gather opinions on topics such as pension rates, housing concerns or minimum wage from people directly affected by these issues.

MLA Mark Pollard explained, "I find that there are sections of the community who are less vocal than others.

"As MLAs you bump into the same people in the same places. There are incredibly good lobby groups within the Falklands as well, the Chamber of Commerce, the

Rural Business Association, the FIDC, they're all incredibly good at getting their point across... but certainly during COVID recovery work we found some groups were really reluctant to reach out and speak to anybody."

Sessions would see participants sharing their views on a set topic in small groups, with responses and feedback then shared anonymously with MLAs, and there would be as much or as little participation required as wanted from participants. MLA Pollard said, "We can get people to have an unfettered discussion, give them a level of anonymity and be able to float

ideas and get feedback on them."

When discussing how to make sure underrepresented voices are heard MLA Pollard said, "the main message I really want to get across is that we aren't looking for a specific type of person. We are looking for everybody.

"Anyone who feels that they would like to be able to voice their opinion directly into the system here but not necessarily putting their head above the parapet.

"We absolutely want to hear from everybody and then what we will do is try and put groups together when we're discussing key issues."



42nd anniversary of Liberation commemorated



COMMEMORATIONS of Liberation Day started a day early this year, as two historic aircraft arrived in Stanley and a special commemorative bench was unveiled.

The two aircraft, a Sea Harrier and Lynx XZ725, were gifted to the Falkland Islands for display in the new Lookout Gallery and Exhibition Hall.

Two veterans, Commodore Michael Clapp and Commander Tim Gedge, both offered their support in the acquisition of the Harrier.

The airframe of the Harrier on display

did not serve in the Falklands in 1982, however the aircraft were instrumental in providing air support and operations during 1982.

The Lynx helicopter did participate in Operation Paraquet, and engaged in the attack on the Argentine submarine Santa Fe near South Georgia.

The two aircraft were displayed at the site of what will become the new Lookout Gallery, before they were transported to FIGAS for storage while the building is being constructed.

A group of veterans also helped unveil

a new memorial bench near to the Liberation Monument on June 13.

The bench is one of six memorial benches that Paul Summers has designed and had made for the Falkland Islands.

Paul has been fundraising over the past few months to make this a possibility with 12 benches in total created. Six have been sent to the Falklands to be placed in various locations around the Islands. As well as the one in Stanley, a bench dedicated to the Welsh Guards has been installed at Fitzroy.

MLA Pete Biggs gave a short speech



Top left: Brigadier Dan Duff, Commander of British Forces South Atlantic Islands. Top right: Youth Groups hold wreaths. Above left: ADC to the Governor LCpl Amy Guest. Above right: Standard bearers.

Memorials



Above left: RIC Fire Support Company 2nd Battalion the Royal Regiment of Scotland. Above right: The traffic jam caused by the movement of the aircraft (Pic S Luxton)

about the project before inviting visiting veterans to uncover the bench.

As is customary the Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands from Argentine occupation in 1982 was marked on June 14 with a church service and a ceremony held at the Liberation Monument. After the service which was attended by many including the Acting Governor, MLAs and the Commander British Forces Falkland Islands - they and many Falklands residents then came together at the memorial.

There prayers were said, and a poignant two minutes silence held as those gathered thought quietly of the fallen. Wreaths were laid by a Member of Legislative Assembly, the Commander British Forces, official FIG guests, representatives of the Armed Services, Veteran Associations, relatives of the fallen and others.

A civic reception, hosted by the Falkland Islands Government, was then held in the Falkland Islands Defence Force Club afterwards.



Above left: Veterans uncover the new memorial bench. Above right: a member of the RAF. Above right: Derek Clarke of the FIDF. Below left: the Lynx helicopter (Pic S Luxton). Below right: the Harrier jet (Pic S Luxton).



Shackleton Scholar takes trip down memory lane

AS a two-year-old Björn Gillsäter visited the Falkland Islands with his family. His father, the famed Sven Gillsäter, was making a documentary for Swedish television. And so, Sven, Björn and his mother Harriet, made the long journey to the islands to live for five months and learn about the way of life. Now 55 years later, Björn has been retracing his father's footsteps to find out what has changed in the Islands since.

"As a nature and wildlife photographer he wanted to see the penguins, that's how it started. Fast forward half a century I had the opportunity to revisit due to the Shackleton Foundation."

Björn explained how the trip came about: "My father passed away in 2001, and as I was cleaning up in the archive most of the boxes with photographs were familiar to me. But there was one of Falklands people that I had never seen and very few of those pictures had seen the light of day.

"I started flicking through them and thought this can mean a lot to the right people."

Björn reached out to Chairman of the Shackleton Scholarship, David Tatham, which led to the digitisation of the images, a website, and exhibition in London in 2005.

Margaret Thatcher attended the opening of the exhibition and Björn explained that the pictures meant "so much to her."

The photos then made their way to the Jane Cameron National Archives in the Falklands and Björn was recently



L-R Björn and Carl in the Falklands

contacted for more information, leading to this trip: "There are two reason why we're here. One is very much to share the stories and the pictures, and I'm actually donating the collection to the archives so they can make use of it the best they can.

"The other is that Carl and I wanted to do a documentary about the Islands, we call it 'Images of Hope,' to talk a little bit about what it was like in 1968-1969 as far as we know from reading up, and comparing it to what the situation is today here.

"What are the big improvements? What are the remaining challenges? How is life

different."

Björn and filmmaker Carl Eneroth interviewed many different people to learn more about the changes across the last half century.

Carl said: "what does it mean to actually live on the island? That was the task we brought upon ourselves. We have all the stories, we'll see how we bring that together now."

Björn added: "both my parents have passed away. I was only 2 and a half, I don't remember anything, my parents told me about the experience. Now I've come back here and experienced it for real. It's a bit of reconnecting with me as a two and a half year old in a way.

"It was a big bonding moment for my parents and me, we became a strong unit. Five months in a place you've never heard of before. You're so isolated here. It really brings you together. We were out in camp, sleeping in tents. We had a real Falklands experience I think."

During this recent trip to the Islands, Björn has been meeting people he would have met as a small child, and who remembered his family, Robin Luxton told him "I think I remember your father but most of all I remember your mother."

Björn explained that his mother was a singer, and had sung at the midnight mass at Christmas: "he said he had chills, as a 16-year-old. That was really special and it wasn't about my dad it was about my mum.



Above: Cecil Bertrand sits in amongst the tussac on Carcass Island. Left: the Davis family on New Island. Photos by Sven Gillsäter, courtesy Björn Gillsäter and Stockholm Social Innovation Lab.

History



"I'm translating bits from the book [Sven wrote a travelogue of their time in the islands 'Penguins in the Wind'] and it's pretty clear from the text that we were part of the community."

Speaking on how the Falklands has changed since the time his family visited: "that was the whole point behind the project, then and now. For the most part things haven't changed much which is great because there's a special atmosphere here."

Talking about what it used to be like in the Falklands in 1968 Björn describes the Boxing Day races as his father put in the book: "for the Christmas sports week people were coming down the mountain on horseback, or if you live far away the ship would go around and pick up the horses so they could participate. So it was critical to keep the community together."

Back in the present day, the pair both

said they enjoyed their visit to the islands, and would like to visit again. Saying they spent "too short" a time here. Highlights including a trip to Carcass Island to sit, as the Gillsäter's had done in the 60s, with the penguins, as well as attending the CFL two-nighter.

Carl said of the documentary he is creating, and of what Sven captured in his photos: "the real thing is giving that picture of how it was before the invasion, then things tend to blend a bit later on, but before that there was a whole lifestyle that's not here anymore. So that's a really big thing he did inadvertently."

Björn added: "that's right, it was about the penguins. This was a sideshow which has become more important than the main show."

Björn has also started work on translating his father's book from Swedish to English.



Top left: Hannah Smith spinning wool. Top right: A young Björn watches Harry Faria cutting peat. Middle: Sven catching a fish with Ted Robson. Above right: Land Rovers parked at Stanley Racecourse for the annual Boxing Day Races. Above left: the lawn is cut at Government House. Photos by Sven Gillsäter, courtesy Björn Gillsäter and Stockholm Social Innovation Lab. Inset: Björn meets Margaret Thatcher at the opening of the 2005 exhibition.



The Buffalo Billies



Pat Winn and the Western Stars

CFL celebrate 30 years

CONSOLIDATED Fisheries Limited (CFL) celebrated their 30 years in business with a fantastic two-nighter in the Town Hall in March.

Two UK based bands were brought down by the company specially for the community event and performed to a packed hall on the nights of March 8 and 9, tagging on a Sunday afternoon wind-down session as well.

Lively duo the Buffalo Billies kicked off Friday evening with a mix of country and pop/rock hits with a country twang. Starting with 'Chicken Fried', they had the dance floor packed within minutes and even incorporated a bit of countrified "Kung Foo Fighting".

Their energy and humour were infectious and at the end of each set they were practically mobbed with offers of drinks and requests for selfies. They were embraced by the community and fitted in "mighty fine."

Pat Winn and the Western Stars alternated with the Billies, providing a rockabilly and country mix which went down a storm with the local audience.

Pat is no stranger to the Falklands and has been at the heart of many a sing-song on both East and West Falklands on his previous tours with the RAF.

This however, was his first visit as a professional musician and he had hand-picked guitarist, Dave Yates, bassist Glenn Wade, and drummer Stuart Rowland to make up the Western Stars as a band that would hit exactly the right note with country music fans.

As always, Pat was pitch perfect and the band went down a storm with their well-rehearsed list of Falklands favourites, not forgetting the appearance of the "green machine" double bass.

CFL's longliner *CFL Hunter* was at FIPASS for the weekend and the crew from the ship enjoyed the celebration along with the staff and directors of the company.

Opening the event on Friday night CFL's Sharon Jaffray welcomed everyone to celebrate with them. She said that the company was proud of its investment in research, maintaining a sustainable toothfish fishery and its position within the community.

She thanked CFL's manager Janet Robertson and the board of directors for supporting the concept of a community celebration for the anniversary, adding, "but without the crew of CFL Hunter there would be no celebration to be had, and indeed without all the seafarers working in Falklands water, we would not



Double bass player Glenn McCabe. Could this be the first time a double bass has been played in the Falklands?

enjoy the healthy economy we do."

The bands left with a desire to return and sent their thanks to everyone for such an incredibly warm welcome and fun time.





Inset: Alison Howe and the late Anna King were this year's winners of the Contribution to Tourism Award. Above right: the Harbour View gift shop. Pics FITB and A Howe

Falkland Islands Tourism Awards 2024

THE Falkland Islands Tourist Board hosted the Tourism Awards in May, with the new Chair Richard Stevens introducing the Awards.

Mr Stevens referenced the difficulties faced by the industry including Avian flu, wildfires and bad weather impacting the cruise ship vessels.

He noted that, "many wondered if tourism would ever recover after Covid but this year we have surpassed all our previous greatest numbers in both cruise ship passengers and land based visitors..."

He said, "on top of this the average spend per passenger has risen 26% to £75.52," adding, "the Jetty Centre has focussed on selling locally produced goods with payment to our creative folk moving from £21,360 in 2022 to £124,581 by February 2024. This money is percolating into our community through the many businesses and individuals and that provide a service directly or indirectly to our visitors."

Executive Director Falkland Islands Tourist Board Steph Middleton introduced the prize winners and this year's Driver of the Year, Leon Mitchell.

Taste of the Falklands went to the The Victory Bar and winner of Visitor Experience was awarded to 74 Days to Victory.

Tim Miller took home the Tour Guide Award and The Victory Bar also won Outstanding Customer Service. Penguin Travel won the Agency Award and the Camp Accommodation prize was awarded to Sea Lion Lodge.

The Stanley Accommodation Award went to Lookout Lodge and the Outstanding Tourism Initiative was presented to Premium Penguin Tours.

Contribution to Tourism Award

Every year a special Contribution to Tourism Award is presented and this year it was won by Alison Howe and Anna King.

Mrs Middleton outlined how the award had gone to two individuals who had "followed a family trend in tourism."

She explained how their parents had bought a building known as the Ship Hotel and two houses in 1969. "They renovated it all and made it into a hotel, The Upland Goose Hotel. Up until then there hadn't been anywhere to dine out, but they also opened the doors of the Hotel to diners."

She continued: "The retail side started with a small display cabinet in the hotel selling hand-painted bird plates. They then moved on to large plates with the map on and sights of Stanley along with key rings, pens."

Mrs Middleton said when cruise ships started in about 1972 they sold sandwiches, teas and coffees from the main bar along with chocolates.

Alison and Anna's sister, Barbara, helped too in the early years, "so it was a real family business," said Mrs Middleton.

"In about 1980 they converted the side room of the bar in the hotel to a gift shop and sold a good range of souvenirs and also gift items for the local population.

"When the family sold the hotel in 1987 they didn't sell the land at the back so they moved the gift shop operation to a portacabin in what was the hotel garden. The original gift shop building then replaced this and they expanded the range and made it into the business it is today."

After that Anna went on to buy the



Above left: this years trophies. Above: award winners.

3-storey house which is where the Harbour View Gift Shop is today, and sold the family business; the opening coincided with the visit of 1982 war veterans in 2002.

Mrs Middleton outlined to the gathered industry members that the Harbour View Gift Shop continued to grow with an extension and "they have developed a reputation for excellence. They have won numerous customer service awards over the years and have a drive for locally crafted products (many created by themselves) that display the very best of the Falklands. They developed a webshop and their reputation has truly carried all around the world."

She explained that Anna and Alison had retired "and we all wish them well with their retirement, but most of all we thank them and their family for being trail blazers in the tourism industry and for their tireless and sometimes thankless efforts."

She said it was "also interesting to note that Alison applied to the education department in 1976 for funding to study hotel management and catering at Chichester College, however, the reply was that there is no future in tourism – if only those decision makers could see the Falklands now; fortunately her parents did see the future and sent her anyway."

FIDF's Major Daniel Biggs is Best International Cadet

COMMANDING Officer of the Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) Major Daniel Biggs was recently awarded Best International Cadet after completing the Royal Military Academy Commissioning Course Short at Sandhurst.

Major Biggs writes about what the training course involved and his experience of it below:

The training course I undertook is designed to make you an effective leader of soldiers. It is Infantry based around platoon control and tactics of Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant.

The Commissioning Course Short is eight weeks long and based on the regular commissioning course. Because of the shorter duration the course is an intense challenge progressing from the fundamentals of soldiering through to developing the officer cadets into effective leaders.

The course was split up into four modules each two weeks long. Module one consisted of foundation military skills, module two and three were progressing tactical leadership and module four looked at command leadership and management. Although the full course period was eight weeks this course is also used to commission Specialist Reserve and Professionally Qualified officers such as Padres who only attend a small part of the overall course.

There were approximately 60 of us on the course but numbers fluctuated through the modules.

The course involved several exercises to practice the skills learnt with assessed appointments as Platoon Sergeant and Platoon Commander. These appointments were pressurised through having to lead peers, physical tiredness, and mental fatigue with very little opportunity to rest and sleep throughout the exercises. This pressure was designed to challenge leaders to make good decisions and lead teams in challenging situations to simulate real world scenarios.

I really enjoyed the course. The intensity was challenging due to the relentless pace of the instruction, long days, demanding exercises, and the physical challenge. However, it was very rewarding, it was great to work so closely for an extended period with a diverse and talented bunch of cadets. It was also fantastic to get the opportunity to lead a group of soldiers in such diverse scenarios as well as learning from the opportunity to observe so many other talented leaders.

Completing this course has also given me the opportunity to reflect and



Above: Major Daniel Biggs at his passing out parade after finishing the Commissioning Course at Sandhurst. Below: on exercise.

compare the standards of the FIDF, the quality of training that we deliver, as well as our direction of training to ensure maximum benefit from our small force in a time of need.

We are in the gifted position to have a seconded Royal Marine Staff Instructor which allows us to keep up to date with current practice, and with our many highly capable and gifted members I have increased confidence in the ability of our force.



MAJOR Biggs passed out from the Commissioning Course at Sandhurst also being awarded Best International Officer Cadet.

Comments made in the report of his eight weeks hold Major Biggs in high regard, "as a Falkland Islander, he arrived with a resilience and determination to succeed that has inspired each and every member of 37 Platoon.

"Holding himself to an extremely high standard, he has done his Defence Force proud and as a recognition of his achievements, should win the International Prize."

The official report discusses Major Biggs' achievements throughout the course, from fitness tests to leadership skills leading platoons during exercises.

Concluding comments state that Major Biggs was an "outstanding team member" and demonstrated an "epic performance" during the course, being the "standout" nomination for the International Prize.

Director of Emergency Services and Islands Security, Justin McPhee commented, "Dan has done exceptionally well at Sandhurst, he should be extremely proud of his performance and is a real credit to the FIDF and the Falkland Islands. Professional military training in the UK is key to the continued development of the FIDF."

I feel that the training course at Sandhurst was a great experience for my personal development and will certainly give value back to the FIDF with new ideas for developing leadership. We hope that in the future more potential officers will get the opportunity to complete this course.



Falkland Island Rangers become ambassadors in United Kingdom



Left: exploring Wales through adventure sports. Above: a day out. Below left: paddleboarding. Below right: at the Royal Welsh Show with FIGO Rep Richard Hyslop and Andy Pollard.

THE Falkland Islands Ranger Group have recently returned from their trip to the UK, and Ranger Kate Gould has written the following article about their experiences. The group comprised Kate Gould, Jade Rozee, Kalista Henty, Eirine Kamoto, Mika Williams, Anna Lee and Ruby Marsh. Also leaders Caitlin Fowler, Vicky Collier and Nikki Murphy.

After months of fundraising, planning out travel routes and deciding on fun activities, finally setting foot in the UK felt unreal to all of us. However we didn't have much time to take it all in before we were off again, this time on a four hour drive to a small village in West Wales called Pentre Ifan.

Once we finally arrived we realised that all of that travelling had definitely been worth it. Although we were all very used to seeing farm animals, the vastness (and greenness) of the mountainous Welsh countryside was new to us. We spent our short stay there wandering around the countryside, admiring beautiful architecture and listening to Nikki's embarrassing stories from her previous visits there.

Two days later we set off again - this time to a beautiful activity centre in Glan Llyn, Bala, where once again our schedule was packed. Paddleboarding was first on the agenda and I think it's safe to say that everyone was a little apprehensive at first but we all had an amazing time

in the end. In the following days we tried completing an assault course and just about managed to despite Eirine sabotaging Kalista halfway through. We also attempted a climbing wall, with half the group scaling it in seconds and the other just about making it to the top.

By the time we had finished everything else on the plan - canoeing, campfires and a VERY interesting raft building competition - it was time to move on again. Our next stop was the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show in mid Wales. After yet another long drive we met the other Guides and Rangers at our accommodation near the show. We were welcomed with open arms by the Welsh groups.

We woke up on day one of the show at the (not) socially acceptable time of 5:30am to an insane humidity and bright sunlight. By 7am all 60 of us were on the bus and heading off to the main event. Once we had all discovered our schedules, shifts began at 9am. Some of us had a session right away while others had the chance to explore the rest of the showground.

I think we were mainly just expecting it to be tractors and farm animals and were ecstatic to see the endless amount of clothes, jewellery and really anything you could think of on offer. By 6pm the day was over and everyone was tired but happy, showing off whatever trinkets

they had managed to find. The following three days were very similar, one person would be giving out directions to the nearest food place while another was looking around the shops for a new pair of crocs.

We were also stopped quite a few times by people asking if we were really from the Falklands, followed by either stories from visits there or asking about what life was like living there.

By the end of day four all of us were struggling to fit everything into our bags before we made our return to Pentre Ifan. We spent almost the entire day recharging after the hectic past few days.

Our final stop was Pax Lodge, a World Guiding Centre in London. The first evening was spent doing team activities and singing songs taught to us by two hilarious leaders from Mexico and Tunisia.

Next we hit Oxford Street to go on a shopping spree. We split up and went to whichever shops we were the most desperate to visit, while regrouping to find somewhere to eat in between. On top of that we had decided on two different Guiding challenges made by Pax Lodge so we tried completing the Monopoly Challenge as we travelled through London.

One of the most fun parts of the experience was a trip to Thorpe Park. For most of the group it was their first time on a roller coaster so it was an experience to say the least. However none of those rides quite equated to the pure fear we felt when we visited the London Dungeons later on in the trip.

We also met other groups of Girlguides from other countries (Faroe Islands, Canada, Argentina, Tunisia, Mexico) back at Pax Lodge and were able to learn their traditional songs.

We would really like to thank everyone who supported us to go, particularly our generous sponsors, our leaders, Ceredigion Girlguiding, FIGO and our Commissioner Terri.





Left: Beautiful New Island cliffs. Pic Katharyn Daniels. Above: With continued restoration effort, New Island can keep being one of the most important sanctuaries for both people and nature in the Falklands. Photos FC unless otherwise indicated.

New Island like new

WITH sprawling colonies of black-browed albatross, fur seals, sealions and penguins, and the world's largest breeding population of thin-billed prions, there is no doubt that New Island is an extraordinary place for wildlife.

This is in no small part thanks to the pioneering conservation action that has taken place there over the last half century. It's also an extraordinary place for people. Visitors enjoy the contrast between the dramatic cliff scenery

and the gentle sandy beaches, and the Island's rich heritage with the remains of the only land-based whaling station, and historic stone buildings.

However, this is only part of the picture. As part of the Darwin Plus funded New Island Restoration Project, Falklands Conservation have learned some unsettling truths. Despite these past conservation efforts, many of the Island's ecosystems and species are still in decline.

Work undertaken by the RSPB used satellite data to confirm that soil loss on New Island is an alarming problem. 23% of the island has been eroded to bare rock or clay, half of this in the past 18 years. Nine football pitches of soil are now lost each year. If this were to continue, the island would be soil-free in 250 years. The Island's soils, and therefore habitats supporting its unique biodiversity, are quite literally blowing into the wind.

Another startling discovery was



Above left: Last year, FC restored five eroded, white-chinned petrel burrows. They constructed the artificial nests using ducting donated by Trant Engineering. Above right: Eroded seabird burrow.

Environment

the decline in white-chinned petrels. Historically, there have been between 30-50 breeding pairs of white-chinned petrels on New Island, but when a team conducted a survey of their population in February 2023, they found that none of the white-chinned petrels successfully raised a chick, and many of their burrows had eroded away leaving less than ten potential breeding burrows.

This species, which is in global decline and is found only at three other sites in the Falklands, is on the verge of local extinction. Unfortunately, this is a similar fate to many other species which are notably absent from New Island, such as storm petrels, diving petrels, Cobb's wren, and camel crickets.

These examples are symptoms of an ecosystem under pressure, but what is driving it? The truth is that all the contributing factors, of which there are likely to be many, are not fully understood. However, the presence of invasive mammals is playing a role. Globally, invasive species are implicated in 86% of all recorded extinctions on islands, and on New Island there are four species of invasive mammals which are regarded to be among the world's most

damaging: rats, mice, rabbits, and feral cats. Motion activated cameras installed at the white-chinned petrel colony showed feral cats regularly listening at the entrance of white-chinned petrel burrows and rats, mice and rabbits using the same area, sometimes the same burrows as the white-chinned petrels. Rats, mice, and cats threaten wildlife through predation, but mice and rabbits also play a large part in changing ecosystems. Mice eat insects and lots of seeds which can inhibit the recovery of native plant species. Rabbits are selective grazers, nibbling the shoots and seedlings of their favourite foods while largely ignoring some others. Combined, the effects of predation, changing ecosystems and suppressing recovery of flora and fauna, is undoubtedly a key part of why some of New Island's habitats and species are in decline.

The good news is that now more is known about some of the problems, Falklands Conservation is working towards fixing some of them.

Falklands Conservation installed some artificial nest burrows for the white-chinned petrels, and early indications are that the birds are keen to use them!

It is also planned to tackle the causes of decline, and Falklands Conservation, along with FIG and RSPB are working towards removing all the invasive mammals from New Island, halting the predation pressures and enabling the recovery of species and habitats. This would also enable continued restoration efforts to plant tussac and other native plants which will stabilise soils, capture carbon and provide a habitat for an increasing abundance and diversity of native species. One day, it is hoped that increasing numbers of white-chinned petrels will be seen safely breeding on New Island, and that extirpated species such as Cobb's wren, camel crickets and other small seabirds will recolonise the Island.

Falklands Conservation also aim to restore the historic stone building so that it will last for future generations to enjoy. In short, Falklands Conservation aims to build on the incredible conservation efforts that have been done in the past and enable New Island to become an even more extraordinary place for wildlife and people, in short, to be more like new.

Report by Falklands Conservation

Right: The old whaling station on New Island is the only land-based whaling station in the Falklands. Below left: a feral cat pictured on camera traps.



Above Left: Mouse pictured in white-chinned petrel burrow, New Island. Above Right: Ship rat pictured in white-chinned petrel colony, New Island.

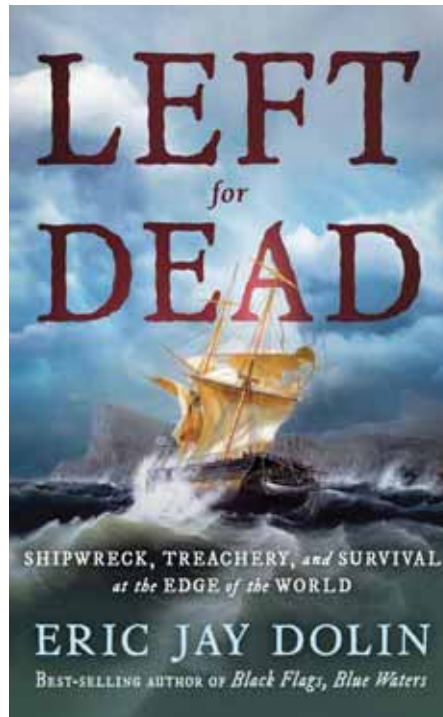
Left for Dead

The true story of five castaways abandoned on the Falkland Islands of 1812: a review by Mensun Bound.

WITH verve and vigor, Dolin tells the story of a remarkable encounter between a small group of American sealers and some shipwrecked British mariners at the bottom of the world on one of the lesser specks within the Falklands archipelago, New Island. But, and this is what soured things, it happened at a time when the United States and Britain were at war.

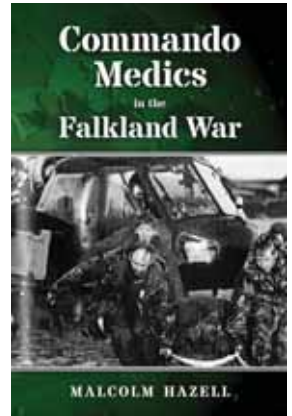
It was the perfect recipe for things to go wrong – and they did. Again and again and again. In the end it came down to just one thing – survival. Surviving the Falklands and surviving each other.

The desperate nature of their circumstances and the way events unfolded brought out the best but also the very worst in people. Yes, there were acts of compassion and generosity but, more notably, there were also plots and counter-plots, maroonings within maroonings, greed, brutality and perfidy most foul. It is a truly extraordinary story told in gripping fashion and vivid detail, but – and this is what makes it all so amazing – none of it is fiction, it all, every bit of it, actually happened.



An insight into Commando Medics

“A LITTLE gem of modern history” is just one of the readers reviews of Commando Medic Malcolm Hazell’s account of the Falklands War.



Many have been written but Hazell

who led a team of 39 men first at Ajax Bay and then at Teal Inlet alongside members of the SBS and Commands specialist Mountain and Arctic Warfare provides a complete insight.

The author is clear that the remarkable success his men enjoyed in saving so many critically injured lives from both sides of the war, was in no small measure also due to the heroic endeavours of the pilots, often flying in the most appalling weather conditions to evacuate the wounded.

This is not just a medics story however, and the reader is given a full understanding of the tactical situation throughout the account, on a day by day, blow by blow basis.

Get to know the author

ERIC Jay Dolin grew up near the coasts of New York and Connecticut, and since an early age was fascinated by the natural world, especially the ocean.

When he left for college he wanted to become a marine biologist or more specifically a malacologist (seashell scientist). At Brown University he quickly realized that although he loved learning about science, he wasn’t cut out for a career in science. After taking a year out Dolin shifted course turning toward the field of environmental policy, first earning a double-major in biology and environmental studies, then getting a masters degree in environmental management from Yale, and a Ph.D. in environmental policy and planning from MIT.

He has held a variety of jobs, including stints as a fisheries policy analyst at the National Marine Fisheries Service, a program manager at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an



Above: Author of *Left for Dead*, Eric Jay Dolin. Top: the cover of his new release.

environmental consultant stateside and in London, an American Association for the Advancement of Science writing fellow at Business Week, a curatorial assistant in the Mollusk Department at Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology, and an intern at the National

Wildlife Federation, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and the U.S. Senate. In 2007, Dolin became a fulltime writer, which he says “is by far the most challenging and rewarding job I have ever had.”

Dolin has always enjoyed writing and telling stories, and that’s why he started writing books - to share the stories that he finds most intriguing. He has written over 60 articles for a variety of publications and published a number of books. Many of his works have been awarded prizes or have been chosen as “must read books.”

Dolin is also a Switzer Environmental Fellow, a Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow, a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, and a Nantucket Historical Society Research Fellow, and was awarded a special commendation from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for “Contributing to the Award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2007 to the IPCC.”

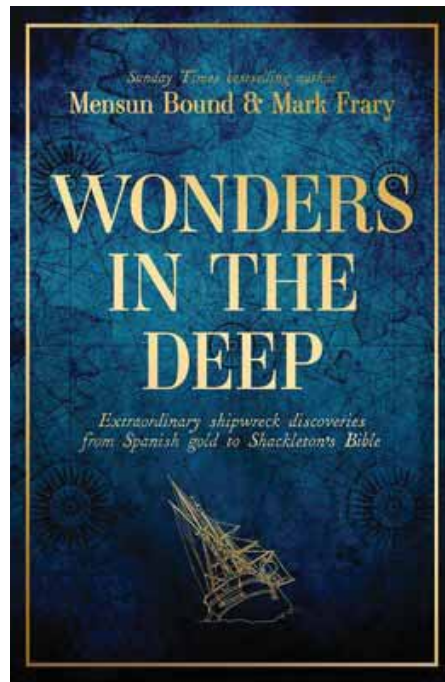
Wonders in the Deep - a new publication from Mensun Bound

Extraordinary shipwreck discoveries from Spanish Gold to Shackleton's Bible.

A SHIPWRECK is a time capsule. When a maritime archaeologist picks up an item from the seabed, it is a direct connection with history. The last time the object was touched was sometimes centuries before; now, it's starting a new life.

The millions of vessels that lie under the sea tell the human history of the world. Mensun Bound is the renowned marine archaeologist who was the Director of Exploration on the team that discovered Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance*.

With journalist Mark Frary, here Bound uses the many treasures he has discovered, from Nazi eagles to cannonballs, to write a maritime history of the world from 3000 BCE. Interwoven throughout with beautiful photographs, *Wonders in the Deep* is a riveting story of human ambition, defeat and ingenuity.



Wreck of the *Endurance* protected

FOLLOWING discovery by Falkland Islander Mensun Bound the wreck of Ernest Shackleton's ship, *the Endurance*, will now be protected underneath a Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

The plan, commissioned by the FCDO, was presented by the UK to the Committee for Environmental Protection at the 2024 Antarctic Treaty meeting and sponsored by multiple countries.

A key objective of the CMP will be to ensure the preservation of the wreck in situ. A statement put out by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) states that, "Although the wreck is a designated historic monument and its remote location in the Weddell Sea serves as a protective factor, with warming temperatures and sea ice loss, it could become increasingly vulnerable."

Identified risk factors included unauthorised visits using submersibles, tourist visits, commercial fishing and unauthorised recovery of artefacts.

It has been recommended to extend the area that is protected around the wreck and designate it an Antarctic Specially Protected Area. A formal application will be pursued in 2025.

Get to know the author

BORN in the Falkland Islands, Mensun Bound studied in New York, before moving to Oxford University where he continued his studies at Lincoln College and then St Catherine's College before finally becoming the Triton Fellow in Maritime Archaeology at St Peter's College.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and Explorer's Club. Known as 'Indiana Jones of the Deep,' Bound has conducted wreck surveys and excavations all over the world in a career that spanned over 40 years.

In 1981, he excavated one of the oldest known shipwrecks (an Etruscan ship from 600 BC) and, in 1997, he used saturation diving methods in the South China Sea off Vietnam to carry out the deepest hands-on shipwreck excavation there has ever been.

Twelve museums around the globe hold permanent displays of artefacts raised by Bound. In 2019 Bound stunned the world with his discovery of Admiral von Spee's flagship, *Scharnhorst*,



Above: Mensun Bound. Top: The cover of his latest book.

which had been lost in the Battle of the Falklands during World War One. That same year Bound was Director of Exploration for the first search to find Shackleton's *Endurance* in Antarctica which ended in failure when their

Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) disappeared without a trace.

In 2022 the search resumed with Bound in the same role, this time under the auspices of the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust, of which Bound is a Trustee.

On 5 March the *Endurance* was found at a depth of 3000 meters under the ice and, as predicted by Bound, it was upright, largely intact, proud of the seabed and in an excellent state of preservation.

His journey to find the *Endurance*, the lost ship of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, is chronicled in his latest book, *The Ship Beneath the Ice: The Discovery of Shackleton's Endurance*.

The expedition to find the *Endurance* was exclusively covered by historian Dan Snow for National Geographic in partnership with History Hit, Little Dot Studios and Consequential. The film will premiere at the BFI London Film Festival this October.

Steven Dickson and Scott take Dog Trial Championship

WESTLEY farm was the location for this year's Championship dog trials. The top four from the sports on both East and West are chosen for the Championship trials.

Hew Grierson who won at Goose Green was unable to attend so the next on the list meant that Steven Dickson had three dogs and Gilberto Castro one for the East.

The West had four dog handlers this year which is a change in recent years where there have usually been two handlers. Paul Peck, Duane Evans, Chris Lloyd and Karl Nightingale had this year's honour.

This is a challenging course with a time limit of 12 minutes, with the lowest points winning.

Steven was first to go with Lexi who had a good run but no sheep penned. Gilberto was up next with Blue who had a hard time fetching the sheep down but a gallant effort nevertheless.

Our West number one was then next with Paul and Sue who had a great outrun, lifting and fetching the sheep nicely, she then had a great drive and was very close to penning the sheep. Back to Steven for 4th out with Jet. Jet also had a good run and was the first to pen all five sheep with 2.51 minutes remaining. Then the turn of Duane with Mongo who put in a great effort but sadly it wasn't the great run that he had at Port Stephens. Chris was up next with Jezza, a great outrun and fetch from Jezza, successfully driving the sheep to the pen but sadly could not pen the sheep before time ran out.

Karl was next with Tuff who also performed well with a good outrun and fetch, the sheep took a while getting through the gates on the drive and they also ran out of time with no sheep penned.

Last up but definitely not least was Steven, again with Scott. Scott did a great outrun, fetching and driving the sheep superbly to be the second dog to pen all five sheep with 4.13 minutes remaining on the clock.

Then it was back to the house at Westley for prize giving. This year there were new sponsors with Kenneth and Josie McKay sponsoring 1st place and JB Supplies with a chain for every competitor; the remaining prizes were sponsored by WFSA. A big thank you to all our sponsors.

Our judges this year were Dae Peck (Head judge), Peter Nightingale and James Butler with Nats Lloyd timekeeper. After the main prizes were handed out it was the results for the "Sound Gate"

sponsored by Keith Alazia and Glynis Newman, points are awarded for each place and then combined for East and West competitors, this year the East triumphed with 20 points over the West's 16 points. Congratulations to all the handlers and dogs.

A huge thank you to Tex and Penni for hosting the trials – a lot of work goes into preparing the course and the sheep in the run up to the day and this is greatly appreciated. Thank you also to Penni for the lunch (with a little help from Nats and Cathy).

Following on the dog trials it was back to the club at Hill Cove for some more dicing before the sweep draw which was held at 5pm.

£15,700 was raised with £11,775 going

towards prizes and £3,925 to the WFSA. There were 2 big prizes, one of £2,500 and one of £1,000, with £200 sellers prize and the remaining £8,075 divided into various prizes of £200, £100, £75 and £50. Huge thank you to Harold and Lisa for all their hard work with the sweep draw. This is the main fundraiser for the sports so we are grateful to everyone for their contributions.

Thank you also to all Hill Cove residents for hosting guests and the Hill Cove Club for keeping everyone hydrated for the weekend. There is a lot of work that goes into making these events the success they are and we would like to thank everyone that helped along the way.

N Lloyd



Above left: Steven Dickson accepts his Championship trophy. Above right: Paul Peck is awarded the second place prize. Below left: the judges watch the trials take place. Below right: Steven Dickson and Gilberto Castro with the Sound Gate award. Pics Sally Ellis



Impressive play from Falklands hockey in Chile

FALKLANDS teams triumphed in the Southern Winter Cup Classic ice hockey tournament in Punta Arenas this July. A total of 49 matches in six leagues were played across one week involving 130 players plus an army of coaches and officials.

An U10 league is a new addition to the schedule this year and the team were incredibly impressed with how the youngest members of the squad coped with the rigours of a tournament. This was their first experience of playing hockey on ice other than the few hours they had at Cape Pembroke prior to leaving. They narrowly missed out on a place in the final, but they have the foundations of a bright future ahead of them.

U12 saw a more experienced line up, and dominated their league, winning every league game. The whole squad was struck down with a flu-like bug this time and that was in evidence in the final match where they were overpowered by the Patagonia team. However, their ability is in no doubt and they will continue to go from strength to strength.

It was the first time the U16 league had two teams entered from the FI. U16A absolutely dominated the matches, so much so that the final was abandoned and a friendly match between 2nd and 3rd place league finishers was played instead.

U16B were the younger cohort and this tournament set the basis for their future together.

There was only one other women's team entered into the competition so their league was played as a best of seven games.

The Falklands ladies won four, lost two and drew one, so had the gold in the bag by game six. A very good performance from a mixture of experienced and new players ensures that womens hockey has a great future in the Falklands.

In adults, again there were two teams in the same league for the first time. The A team was made up of experienced players who have many years of playing together behind them and that showed in their strong performance in their games, winning three of their four to finish top in the league.

The B team was made up of teenagers who had a very difficult task ahead of them against the adult teams of Punta Arenas but finished the league fourth out of five.

In what was undoubtedly the match of the tournament, they took on Warriors - last year's tournament winners - and held them to a draw.



Above: Marvis Chipunza, Damarys Escobar and Kathy Aguilera celebrating a goal from Damarys against Warriors a Punta Arenas team with team Captain Kiara Oyarzun to the right. Inset: Tori Francis who played in the U10 and U12 leagues. Below: Ethan Fowler acknowledges the crowd in a match against Kotaix. Photos Roberto Ulloa Igor



The match was decided by a golden goal from Warriors to put them into a 3rd place playoff against Kotaix. That was another tough match for them but they prevailed and came away with a very respectable 3rd place overall.

Another new addition to the tournament this year was the seniors league for the over 40s. Three teams entered and they provided some spectacular entertainment for the crowds. The Falklands team finished top of the league and with seconds to spare managed to clinch the gold medal in the final. This was a hugely

successful addition to the tournament and will become a permanent part of the event.

The Falkland Islands Hockey Association were the principal organisers this year and are hugely thankful to all the players and supporters, the officials who ensured the games ran smoothly, the ZonAustral and all of their sponsors who made this possible.





Inset above: First relay team Zimselect. Above left: winner Jack Hindle and Peter Bird (2nd). Above right: 1st woman Ros Cheek leads a pack. Below: Amy Guest was the 4th woman in her first marathon. Bottom: Runners at the start line. Bottom right: Joseph Lynch still smiling.

Marathon triumph for Jack Hindle



THE Standard Chartered Stanley Marathon has always been challenging. Not just because it is the most southerly AIMS certified marathon, but because of the persistent westerly winds. This makes the slug along the exposed By-Pass up to the turning point at Sapper Hill especially demoralising; the marathon is not just about fitness levels, but also a psychological feat.

The start was a promising one with patches of blue sky and a slight wind; not quite perfect, but acceptable for the 44 individual runners and 16 teams to take on the challenge.

Jack Hindle was ahead of second place Peter Bird early on, the distance stretching out to a seemingly unbeatable length. Jack kept up the pace and finished with a time of 2:43:15 (the course record being 2:31:46 in 2017). Triathlete Jack hails from Lancashire and has been running for 15 years, and competitively for six years. Asked about how he had dealt with the challenging conditions he described himself as a “seasoned professional now.” He confirmed that, “mental resilience” was needed, adding, “you get used to having to do this.”

At around two and a half hours into the race the heavens opened and a hail storm rained down on the course. Those still on the Bypass endured the full force as they battled to the Sapper Hill turning point, running straight into the weather front. This is where runners had to be both physically and mentally strong to get through the tough section, finding blessed relief at the 180 degree turn, and have the weather working with them for the stretch back to FIGAS.

Second place went to Peter Bird who

came over the line 19 minutes later with a time of 3:02:33. Third place went to Thomas Ashford (3:21:58) and fourth place to Canadian Alexander Friesen (3:25:40).

16 teams took part this year with the two man band of Zimselect coming in first with 3:08:46. Second place team was Nice Guys Finish Fast, made up of Matthew, Thomas, Benjamin and Teslyn, who finished in a time of 3:24:39.

First Falkland Born runner (who receives a special prize) was Stephen Aldridge with a time of 4:16:41, and First Woman was seasoned Falklands runner Ros Cheek who crossed the line not long after at 4:17:09.

Fourth woman across the line was Amy Guest in her first marathon with a time of 4:51:39. Amy said she enjoyed the experience, “It was mostly fun, the atmosphere was great. At times pretty tough—the weather was very unforgiving.”



Craig Lewis awarded Christie Prize



Above: Craig Lewis at his graduation.
Below: Emma Brook hands Craig his certificate.
Pics Alison Inglis

CRAIG Lewis has been the first recipient of the recently reinstated Christie Prize.

The prize was sponsored for many years by Bill and Merl Christie, who gave a book voucher to the outstanding student, who during their studies represented the Islands well.

For a number of years the prize was supported by the Education Department, but in recent years wasn't awarded. The

FIA Stanley Committee felt that it was very important to continue to recognise the achievements of higher education students, who do well in their studies and more widely.

Committee member Emma Brook commented, "Craig certainly has done a lot to represent the Islands more widely, having attended several Island Games in Swimming and then became a Junior Ambassador, working alongside FIGO and elected representatives to ensure the voice of younger people are heard."

Craig is about to move to the Czech Republic to study for a Master's degree in International Relations at Charles University.

Commenting on receiving the award Craig said, "I'm incredibly honoured to have been awarded the Christie Memorial Prize.

"Coming from the Falkland Islands has always been an enormous sense of pride for me, and to be recognised for celebrating my home whilst I've been studying is monumental."

Craig added, "I plan to continue to represent the Falklands to the best of my abilities and share my incredible home with everyone I meet."



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We are a full-service law firm offering intelligent and helpful legal services to a wide range of business and personal clients from the Falkland Islands and beyond.

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Save the date – AGM

We are pleased to announce that our AGM will be held on 8th December 2024 at 13.00 hours at the following:

The Royal Air Force Club
128 Piccadilly
London
W1J 7PY

The AGM will also be on Zoom. Further details are given on the invitation to members which is included in this edition as an "insert" and will be given on our website.

We look forward to seeing members both in person and via Zoom.



Dedication of the Falkland Islands Resistance Memorial

THE dedication of the Falkland Islands Resistance Memorial took place at the National Memorial Arboretum on June 12.

The dedication was attended by Admiral Sir Trevor Soar CBE ODE DL, representing the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire and The Honourable Roger Spink MLA representing the Falkland Islands Government.

The acknowledgment and the history of events leading to the sad deaths of Doreen Bonner, Mary Goodwin and Susan Whitley was given with warmth and gratitude to the Task Force of 1982 by Rosie King, an Islander who lived in Stanley at the time. Prior to this moving message from Rosie the names of all those who gave their lives for the freedom of the Falkland Islands were read out by relatives and veterans.

The Falkland Islands Association was well represented with members from both the United Kingdom and the Falkland Islands, over 40 members attended. A wreath was laid by Zachary (Zac) Stephenson on behalf of the Falkland Islands and Mensun Bound for the Falkland Islands Association.

The Memorial of three flying Upland



Above: attendees at the dedication.

Geese was encircled by various Standards including the Falkland Islands Standard paraded by Tamsin Cunningham of the Falkland Islands Association Executive Committee.

With over 200 people attending, the dedication was an immense success

and memorable day, gratitude and congratulations must go to Mike Colton and the Friends of the Allied Special Forces memorial Grove for their dedication and time for erecting the memorial plaques and permanent sculpture representing the three ladies.

Rededication of the Falklands Maritime Memorial

THREE members of the Falkland Islands Association attended the rededication of the Maritime Memorial in the Garden of Remembrance on Plymouth Hoe on the 9th of July 2024.

Tamsin Cunningham paraded the Falkland Islands Standard, Keith & Lesley Angus laid plaques on behalf of the Falkland Islanders and the FIA. Also in attendance were the widow of LCpl Giffin, his mother and two sisters, along with 80 other friends and representatives from the Royal Marines and HMS Ardent

This memorial, opened in 1998, lists the names of the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and Royal Marine units who died in the Falklands War and continues to be a site of annual remembrance events.

In 2023, a disheartening discovery was made: the name of Royal Marine, LCPL B P Giffin, who was killed in action on 21 May 1982, was misspelt on the Memorial. Instead of 'Giffin,' 'Griffin'



Above left: Tamsin Cunningham and Marvin Clarke. Right: the memorial.

was engraved.

This error was not taken lightly by the HMS Ardent Committee, who established and maintain the Garden of Remembrance and the memorials. So, on May 15, the new plaque was installed. The Reverend Ken Bromage dedicated this new plaque on July 9.

This correction underscores the

ongoing commitment of the HMS Ardent Association to honour the fallen accurately and respectfully.

The necessary funds were raised, and plans for the new plaque were confirmed. The Royal Marines Association, South Atlantic Medal Association, and Falkland Islands Association played crucial roles in funding this project.

Oppor-tuna-ty to win fishing competition!

OVER 40 people caught some fresh air and headed out to Estancia for the annual Falkland Island Association fishing competition in March.

The weather was mostly on side for the day with Ailsa Heathman summarising: "I think we only had one small squall although they were going by at times so it was largely dry but rather chilly."

"After registration everyone left Estancia house around 10.30am to find their fishing spots," Ailsa explained, "but a lot moved around quite a bit as there did not seem to be any bites to begin with, despite a rising tide."

She continued: "Some folk remained unlucky all day but others came back at 13.30 for the weigh in with some reasonable catches. Only a few small trout were caught with the majority of the catches being mullet."

The under 16s prizes went to Alice-Mae Curtis and Taylor Poole who had pooled their catch bringing in a total of 22lbs 6ozs of mullet, possibly with a little adult assistance! The pair also had the



Right: Toyah showing off her catch. Left: fishing at Tarbarrel. Pics Ailsa Heathman.

biggest fish at 3lbs 7ozs so scooped both prizes in the under 16s category.

Old time winner David (Turpin) Ford triumphed again this year with the greatest catch totalling 11lbs 4ozs of mullet and he also had the biggest fish caught so scooped both prizes again.

The day finished with the fishermen and women piling into Estancia house where a vast array of food was spread out by the participants for all to enjoy as they warmed up from the cold day. "Tales were told and laughs a plenty which hopefully made up for the disappointment of those

who had no catch."

Ailsa added: "Not to be outdone though, Brian Aldridge produced a tin of anchovies for weighing!"

"Thank you to all who braved the cold and took part to support the Falkland Islands Association. If anyone wishes to know more about the work of the Association or wishes to join, please make contact with any local Committee members or visit the FIA website where you can also join on line. The more numbers we have the greater the strength we have."

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CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD

Births, marriages and deaths

Births, marriages and deaths

Births

19.03.2024	Thea Amari Plato-Reid – Tiphane Diane Rodriguez-Reid & Alex Rhys Plato
31.03.2024	Sadie Ryn Robson – Kelly-Marie Stevens & Damien Robson
13.05.2024	Tommy Trevor Gilding – Ellya Angely Morrison-Sanchez & James Aspen Peter Bernard
15.06.2024	Kiara Nova Biggs – Laura Ellen Barnes & Lucas Sebastian Biggs
17.07.2024	Aenea Elizabeth Poncet – Stacey Jane Poncet & Jeremy Nigel Poncet
13.08.2024	Kayla Tori Morrison – Samantha Helen Ford & Glyn Scott Morrison
23.08.2024	Jamie Leigh Evans – Duane Richard Evans & Leigh Francesca Evans
27.08.2024	Lucian Kenny Davis Yon – Remelia Anastasia Ped & Lex Lewellyn Yon

Marriages

29.02.2024	John-Ross Talmarkes & Zara Elizabeth Stevens – Christ Church Cathedral, Ross Road, Stanley, Falkland Islands
02.04.2024	Daniel William Betts & Camila Ignacia Walton Alfaro - Fitzroy Farm, East Falkland, Falkland Islands
02.03.2024	Scott David John Henry & Mhairi-Anne Eccles – Town Hall, Ross Road, Stanley, Falkland Islands
09.03.2024	Christopher Nathaniel Clarke & Tarina Elizabeth Yon – Christ Church Cathedral, Ross Road, Stanley, Falkland Islands
13.04.2024	Melvyn George Johnson & Josephine Mary Joshua – 7 Gleadell Close, Stanley, Falkland Islands
22.04.2024	Nicholas Simon Oliver Rendell & Paula Cristina Munoz Garcia – Sandy Bay, Bleaker Island, Falkland Islands
20.04.2024	Curtis Rex Peters & Zoe Helen Clifton – Darwin Settlement, East Falkland, Falkland Islands
27.07.2024	Adrian Mark Sim & Shanice McCallum Sim – 14 Drury Street, Stanley, Falkland Islands

Deaths

08.02.2024	Ming-Pao WU	Chief Engineer of fishing vessel LUNG SOON FA 1
15.02.2024	August Jacob Fischer	Unknown, United States of America
26.02.2024	Allan John Ross	Retired Brick Layer, Stanley, Falkland Islands
07.03.2024	Alastair Daen Minto	Unemployed, Stanley, Falkland Islands
14.03.2024	Alexander Jaffray	Pensioner, Stanley, Falkland Islands
17.03.2024	Carlos Fernando Aguilera Aguilera	Pensioner, Stanley, Falkland Islands
23.03.2024	Neil Brian Joshua	General Operative, Saint Helena
30.03.2024	Irene MacDonald	Retired, Falkland Islands
09.04.2024	John Macaskill	Retired, Falkland Islands
15.04.2024	Elizabeth Isabella Hutton	Pensioner, Falkland Islands
26.04.2024	Gloria Penelope Thorsen	Retired, Stanley, Falkland Islands
06.05.2024	Yona Davis	Pensioner, Stanley, Falkland Islands
28.05.2024	Christina Ethel Short	Pensioner, Stanley, Falkland Islands
31.05.2024	Connie May	Retired, Stanley, Falkland Islands
26.06.2024	Peter Charles Robertson	Retired Farmer, Port Stephens, West Falkland
12.07.2024	Ian Keith Gleadell	Pensioner, Falkland Islands
28.06.2024	Roy George Victor Davis	Retired, Falkland Islands

All the above information is obtained from the Falklands registry.

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

Advertise in the FIA Newsletter
For rates and other information please contact Ariane Brownlee on agoss@horizon.co.fk

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



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The present circulation of the Newsletter is 4,000 copies. It is distributed to Members of the Association, to both Houses of Parliament, to members of the devolved assemblies, to diplomatic missions and to media outlets. Many copies circulate in Commonwealth countries as well as other countries throughout the world.

For advertising rates and details please apply to:
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From 1 April 2024 the following subscription rates apply:

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Subscriptions are due on 1 April annually

Membership Application

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

I wish to support the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future.

I wish to join the Falkland Islands Association (see rates below).

Name.....

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