



NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 69 APRIL / MAY 2000

Moving Forward

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- To protect the long term economic future of the fisheries

- To restore air communications with South America free from Argentine interference, reduce the pressure on the military airbridge and assist tourism development

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"The agreement is the first stage in building the foundations for mutual trust between our countries" said Councillor Mike Summers. "This is not something that can be achieved overnight. We are at a very interesting stage in our development and cooperation with our South American neighbours will assist in this."



One of the two Fisheries protection vessels patrolling Falkland waters.

Tough Line Taken Against Poachers in Falkland Waters

A Taiwanese fishing vessel has been fined over £175,000 for illegally fishing in Falkland waters at the Stanley Magistrates Court on 3 April 2000.

The master and company which owns the vessel, pleaded guilty to all charges and the penalties imposed by the court included:

- £175,000 fine against the company for fishing without a valid licence
- £5,000 fine against the Master for fishing without a valid licence
- £2,500 fine against the Master for failing to obey an instruction to stop his vessel.

£17,683 costs were awarded to the prosecution and orders were made or are pending in relation to the forfeiture of the catch and fishing gear.

The vessel, Her Ching 101, was intercepted by the Falklands' armed fisheries patrol vessel, the Dorada, on 22 March. After two days of chase, during which the Taiwanese vessel was repeatedly asked to stop, the Dorada fired upon the vessel causing damage to its bow. Her Ching 101 was brought into Stanley on 28 March, accompanied by the Dorada.

In his summing up, Senior Magistrate Mr Keith Watson said that "poaching would not be tolerated and must be deterred" to protect vessel owners with legitimate licences. He also emphasised that the conservation and proper management of the fish and squid resources in Falklands waters was of paramount importance to the Islands.

Director of Fisheries, Mr John Barton, said: "This operation has been a major success and the penalty from the Court should deter others from considering this illegal practice."

MPs Visit the Islands

Five Members of Parliament were invited by the Falkland Islands Government to visit the Islands in early November. The group, consisting of Ian Cawsey (Labour), David Crausby (Labour), Ian Davidson (Labour), Dr Jenny Tonge (Liberal Democrat) and Tony Wright (Labour), also paid a short visit to Ascension Island, on the way to the Islands.

At a public reception the MPs spoke enthusiastically about their impressions of the Islands. Dr Tonge was particularly impressed at the sophistication of the education system and said that the visit had transformed her view of the Islands. Mr Davidson said that public services in the Islands were better than those available in his constituency. He also noted that the relationship between Britain and the Falklands had grown into a partnership and that the Islands (apart from defence) were not dependent in any way on Britain.

Members of the House of Commons Defence Select Committee, Bruce George (Labour) - the Chairman, Jimmy Hood (Labour) and Laura Moffat (Labour), visited the Islands in December. They saw the Garrison at Mount Pleasant and met with Councillors and officials in Stanley.



Left to right: Ian Cawsey MP, Tony Wright MP, Dr Jenny Tonge MP, Ian Davidson MP, David Crausby MP at Stanley Airport.

Education Watch

GCSE Success

Over 30 students in the Falkland Islands sat GCSEs this year and achieved remarkable results, even by the high standards of the Falkland Islands. Students gained grades A* - C in 118 examinations and all students gained at least four GCSE graded results.

David Higgins, Headteacher of the Falkland Islands Community School, said: "Yet again our students have shown a high level of commitment and achieved marvellous results as a consequence."

Seven students are planning to undertake further studies overseas, funded by the Falkland Islands Government.



Falkland students Pippa Lang, Sian Davies and Anna Luxton relaxing in Falkland Lodge (inset) at Peter Symonds' College.



Pictures courtesy of Alastair MacKenzie

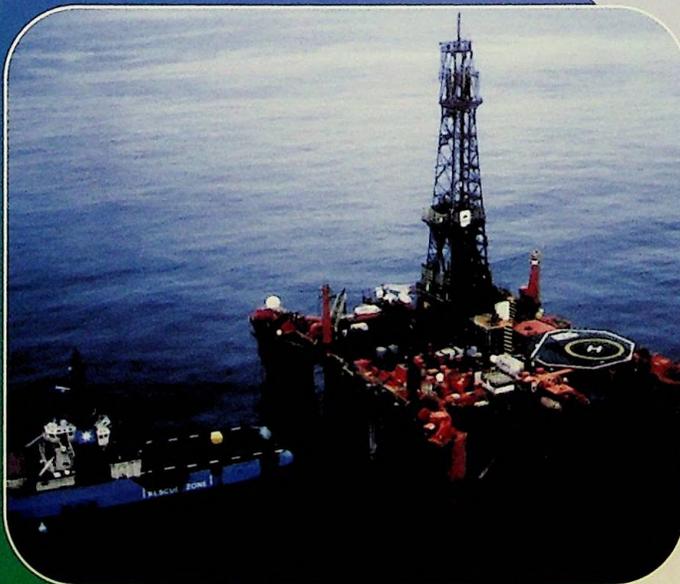
Success For Peter Symonds' College, Winchester

UK national A level tables released at the end of last year revealed that Peter Symonds' College, which has close links with the Falkland Islands Education Department, came fourth in the UK and top in the South.

"We are delighted," said Principal Neil Hopkins, "there is so much hard work put in each year by staff, students and governors. It is good to see that work reflected."

A recent schools' inspection also gave the College a glowing report: "Standards of teaching and learning are high and students' achievements in many subjects are consistently good." Nineteen Falklands students are currently studying for A levels at the College.

The Search for Oil



An oil rig in Falkland waters in May 1998.

Picture courtesy of Amerada Hess

Data from the six wells drilled in the North Falkland Basin during 1998 has been collected and analysed by the British Geological Survey (BGS) during 1999. Although none of the wells found commercially viable accumulations of oil, five of the six did find minor quantities of oil, and several also had evidence of gas: one of the wells even flowed live oil to surface.

The drilling data has revealed the presence of a rich organic source rock, the necessary prerequisite for any oil to be formed in the area. Recent calculations by BGS and Shell indicate that this organic-rich source rock has probably formed up to 60 billion barrels of oil within the North Falkland Basin.

Although large accumulations of oil were not found by the first six wells, BGS suggests that this is because all the wells targeted potential oil fields above the source rock, whereas new geological modelling suggests that it would be better to look beneath the source rock.

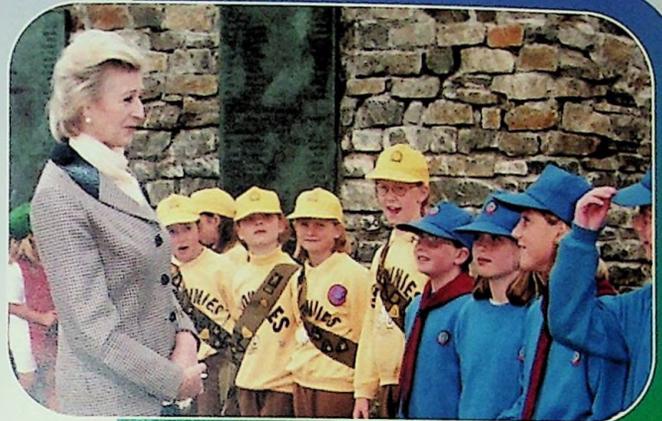
Further exploratory drilling will be necessary to prove the hypothesis that there is oil trapped beneath the organic-rich source rock. The current licensees are attempting to raise the necessary funds to enable this drilling to take place, and are actively searching for new oil company partners to provide extra money to allow such drilling to occur.

Royal Visit

HRH Princess Alexandra, Patron of the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Trust and the Shackleton Scholarship Fund, visited the Islands from 1 to 5 February.

The Princess' busy programme encompassed many aspects of the Islands, including the work of the Trust. HRH toured East and West Falkland and, in brilliant sunshine, visited Sea Lion Island and saw some of the magnificent wildlife that the Islands are home to. At the end of her visit, the Princess declared her trip "magical" and expressed her wish to return.

The UK Falkland Islands Trust, established in 1981, supports the Islands agricultural, education and civil sectors, while the Shackleton Scholarship Fund, set up in 1995, aims to increase the knowledge of the region and promote academic and quality of life exchanges.



Princess Alexandra meeting Falklands Cubs & Brownies.

Picture courtesy of Norman Clark

Introducing Dr Michael Blanch: The New Chief Executive

Dr Michael Blanch arrived in the Falkland Islands in January to take up his post as Chief Executive of the Falkland Islands Government. Prior to this, he was Chief Executive of the London Borough of Bromley for five years.

Dr Blanch spoke to Falklands Focus about his initial impressions of the Islands and his challenging role.

What are your impressions now you have taken up your post?

I have only been in the job for three months so I'm still on a steep learning curve but my wife, Penny, and I feel at home already. The Islands are absolutely beautiful and the people could not have been more welcoming, plus the weather has been fantastic!

How do you see your role?

I believe the role of any Chief Executive is to act as leader of the Civil Service and provide sound policy advice to the elected members and the Governor.

Do you think the role has changed from that of your predecessor?

No, I don't think the role has changed but as the Islands democracy has matured, so the context of the work has changed.

What are your main priorities over the next three years?

Well, my first priority is the 'modernisation' of the Civil Service. I would like to see an improvement in our service delivery so it is a more efficient and customer-centred organisation. Secondly, I want to assist the Councillors in paving the way for constitutional change so we can achieve greater accountability and a more open system of government. Finally, we must work with business to diversify the economy and market our uniqueness so that the Islands can enjoy a sustainable and prosperous future.

(NB. Falkland Islanders enjoy internal self government as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. Under the Constitution, eight Councillors are elected every four years to the Legislative Council.)

Do you think these goals are achievable?

Yes definitely. The key to success lies in us working together, myself and colleagues in the Civil Service, elected Councillors, the Governor and local people, towards agreed goals and with unbounded optimism - something we have plenty of!

Falklands First Solicitor - Ros Cheek

Ros Cheek, 26, is the first Falkland Islander to qualify as a Solicitor and return to practice in the Islands. Ros has held the post of Crown Counsel in the Attorney General's Chambers since the start of this year.

"I have always intended to return to the Islands," said Ros. "The Falklands are my home and having spent the vast majority of the last ten years in England in furtherance of my education, I have not found anything outside the Islands that could entice me to settle elsewhere." After completing her law degree at Newcastle University, Ros returned to the

Islands for a year to work in the Attorney General's Chambers, after which she completed her legal studies at Guildford College of Law. Articles followed at Andrew M Jackson & Co in Hull where Ros chose to work in the Shipping Department to prepare her for work in the Islands.

"It is probably too early to describe a typical day, but the work is varied and I have been able to use my maritime knowledge already. I am confident that the Islands offer me a challenging future and also a quality of life which I believe is unparalleled."

Focus on..

Health & Social Services in the Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands has a comprehensive Health Service that rivals the most developed nations. This is wholly funded by the Falkland Islands Government and caters for the Islands population of 2,200 as well as the 2,000 military personnel and support staff based at Mount Pleasant. The hospital is also available to treat tourists – the Islands receive over 30,000 cruise ship visitors a year – and seamen from vessels licensed to fish in the Islands waters.

King Edward VII Memorial Hospital

The modern, bright and cheerful King Edward VII Memorial Hospital (KEMH) has 32 beds, including two intensive treatment beds and two delivery rooms, x-ray, outpatients, casualty, pathology and an ambulance service.

The medical department provides a full range of health services, including a general practitioner service and a flying doctor service for farm settlements. Dental care is provided by two civilian dentists, whose time is divided between Stanley and Camp (the local term for the countryside). A dental surgery opened last year at Fox Bay to provide a local service on West Falkland. The Royal Air Force provides an aeromedical service for patients requiring treatment outside the Islands.

New Links with UK NHS Trusts

The KEMH will be formally demilitarised from 1 July 2000 and is now forging links with UK hospitals to provide services previously undertaken by the military.

• Leeds General Infirmary

Leeds General Infirmary has won the contract to service and repair medical equipment. It will provide a 24-hour advice service to the Islands, repair equipment flown back on the twice-weekly flights between Britain and the Islands and two technicians will visit annually.

• Southampton General Hospital

Southampton General Hospital will be providing radiography and pathology support. Staff from Southampton will leave for the Islands in July and stay for several months, before being replaced by a new team.



The sheltered accommodation enjoys views of Stanley's beautiful harbour. The modern hospital is inset.

Nick Eastcott, business manager for Southampton's radiology service, said: "It is a great partnership and we have plenty of volunteers already who are eager to go to the Falkland Islands."

NHS Consultants

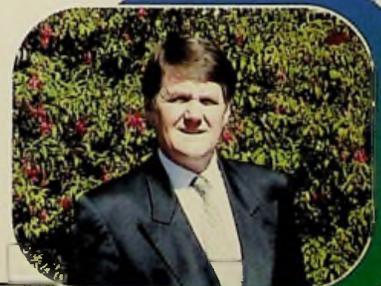
Mr Paul Vinall, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist at Leeds General Infirmary, is one of a number of NHS consultants who visit the Islands each year to provide more specialised services.

Since 1994, Mr Vinall has visited the Islands 13 times both on planned annual visits and on other occasions at short notice for emergency cases. "The medical facilities are extraordinarily good," said Mr Vinall, "and more importantly are served by excellent, highly trained general practitioners and a core of midwifery and nursing staff who are as good, if not better, than any I have met anywhere."

Derek Muhl, Director of Health Services

Two years ago Derek Muhl was Director of Operations for North-East Lincolnshire Trust, a post he held for almost ten years, when he saw the advertisement to work in the Falkland Islands. Before this, he had worked at other NHS hospitals in the Midlands and North England for over thirty years. "I had no idea, before leaving the UK, of the diverse and interesting work that I would be doing now. We provide an excellent range of health services over an extremely large area, in fact the logistical coordination of the services is probably one

of the biggest challenges. It is an all-consuming job and I am part of a professional and dedicated team committed to providing the very best in care."





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ISSUE 70 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2000

Economic Forum projects Falklands into 21st Century

An audience of nearly 150 people made up of business representatives, investors and the media from the Falklands, Spain and the UK attended the first Falkland Islands Forum in London on 12 July 2000. Hosted by the Falkland Islands Government, the Forum considered the future sustainable diversification of the Islands in the areas of mineral exploration, commercial fishing and agriculture, alongside the protection of the Islands' special environment.

The Keynote speech, by Foreign Office Minister John Battle MP, set out the framework of the UK Government's new partnership with the Islands based on self-determination and guaranteed security and praised the economic success of the Islands. Mr Battle described the Falklands as a "beacon of democracy" and praised "the highest standards of probity, law and order, good government and observance of international commitment" that exists there.

Delegates heard presentations from the Falkland Islands Chief Executive and Departmental Heads before breaking into working groups to explore economic, environment and development issues. The plenary session, "Prospects for the new Millennium", included reports from each group and there was a high degree of audience participation and business and commercial contact-making throughout the day.

Dr Michael Blanch, Chief Executive Falkland Islands Government, said: "The Forum has taken us a step closer towards our goals of economic growth together with sustainable environmental policies. Now we can plan with confidence for the challenges of the 21st Century".

Summing up, Councillor Lewis Clifton emphasised the importance that the Falkland Islands Government places on attracting new business stressing that "only through inward investment can we secure and sustain our future".

The Conference, chaired by ITN News Presenter Nick Owen, was generally regarded by all participants as a huge success in projecting the modern Falklands as 'open for business' and an initiative worth repeating. The Forum was generously sponsored by a number of businesses involved in the Islands.

A Pre-Conference Dinner, sponsored by Golden Touza Ltd, was attended by 85 guests including MPs, journalists and business leaders. Minister of State, John Battle MP, was the guest of honour and Michael Binyon of The Times, gave the after-dinner address.



Foreign Office Minister John Battle MP giving the Keynote speech

See Page Two for
New Economic Initiatives

Economic Developments

The development of new sustainable economic initiatives for the Falkland Islands was the central theme of the Falklands Forum, Sustaining a Secure Future, held in London on 12 July.

Among the new initiatives discussed were:

- The branding and marketing of Falkland Islands "natural products" – for example agriproducts from meat and wool, to smoked fish and oysters, calcified seaweed fertiliser and kelp, sphagnum moss and even reindeer – to world markets.
- "Fast-tracking" the export of organic agriculture (the Falklands uses no pesticides, soluble fertilisers, antibiotics or hormone implants).
- A Falkland Islands kite mark, "Falklands Organic" - a badge of quality.
- The construction of a new abattoir, built to EU standards, opening in June/July 2001, to allow the export of organic beef, mutton and lamb.
- An open-door licensing policy for hydrocarbon exploration in unlicensed acreage is in preparation. (Offshore development with little on-shore impact continues to be the strategy for a production phase.)

- The development of on-shore fisheries activity, such as fish preparation. (The average annual catch of fish and squid from Falkland zones is around a quarter of a million tonnes. The Falklands account for around 10% or greater of the world catch of Loligo and Illex squid.)

- The construction of a new deep water port for use by tourist and commercial vessels.

- The responsible development of tourism, including the conversion of cruise ship 'day visitors' to longer stays and returnees. (The Falkland Islands receives over 30,000 cruise ship visitors a year and this is estimated to rise to 70,000 by 2005.)

- The development of a new Falklands internet portal - www.thefalklands.com – with linked websites that will promote a clean, green, welcoming image of the Islands and facilitate e-commerce to sell agriproducts and tourism, and perhaps later in marketing wool and a 'fishery auction'.



A workshop at the Falklands Forum

Constitutional Review

The Legislative Council has established a Select Committee, comprising all elected members, to review the Falkland Islands Constitution in recognition of the mature partnership that the Islands enjoy with the UK Government. Foreign Office Minister John Battle MP has called the discussions "a healthy, open debate."

Discussion papers on the Constitution have been produced by elected representatives, so that Falkland Islanders can "form opinions about what is the most appropriate, representative and efficient form of Government for the Falkland Islands now and into the future." The papers have been published in the weekly newspaper Penguin News and an extensive programme of consultation with the electorate is under way.

Ian Hendry, Deputy Legal Advisor at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, visited the Islands in June to provide advice and assistance in the process. The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Arthur Donahoe QC, will continue this during his visit in early December.

The Select Committee envisages the public consultation process to be completed in May when the proposals will be placed before the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and in turn to the Privy Council. The intention is that the 2001 General Election in the islands will be contested under a revised constitution.



Government House, Stanley

Falkland Islands Government Annual Reception

Over 250 guests including parliamentarians, the media, Falkland friends and families in the UK and many people associated with the Islands attended the Falkland Islands Annual Reception at Lincoln's Inn, London on 13 June. Lord Hurd of Westwell, who is the President of the Falkland Islands Association, was among the guests.

Sukey Cameron, the Falkland Islands Government Representative in the UK, spoke of the significant events and achievements that the Islands had witnessed

in the last year, including the 14 July 1999 Joint Statement between the British and Argentine Governments. However, in a reference to Argentina's continued claim over the Islands, Ms Cameron said: "The right to self-determination is enshrined in the Falkland Islands Constitution, in the UN Charter and guaranteed by the UK Government. Of our own free will we wish to remain British and with your support we will continue to assert our sovereign right to self-determination."

Following the reception, the Band of the Welsh Guards Beat Retreat and General Sir Peter de la Billiere took the salute.

Oil Update

The South West Atlantic Hydrocarbons Commission Meets

Councillor John Birmingham reported that the meeting of the South West Atlantic Hydrocarbons Commission in London in August was conducted in a "cordial atmosphere". This was the first meeting since the inauguration of the new Argentine administration. Representing the Falklands, in the British delegation, were Director of Mineral Resources Phyl Rendell, Attorney General David Lang and Dr Phil Richards, from the British Geological Survey.

The Falkland Islands Government's decision to move towards an open-door licensing policy was discussed and Mrs Rendell confirmed that the British Government is supportive of this development. A joint press statement, from the British and Argentine delegations, said that the delegations would "reflect further" following the meeting and Mrs Rendell confirmed that each side had a "list of tasks to complete".

Environmental Marine Conference

An environmental conference was held in June at The Royal Society in London looking at the South West Atlantic and particularly the area around the Falkland Islands. The ground breaking conference, organised by Dr Mike Osborne of Metoc, on behalf of the oil companies' Environmental Working Group, with assistance from Falklands Conservation, is the first to look in detail at the region and was sponsored by the Falkland Islands Government. Speakers including the British Antarctic Survey, British Geological Survey and Falklands Conservation presented previously unpublished research including the results of the environmental assessment studies undertaken by the various companies involved in the recent oil exploration of the surrounding waters.



The Great Hall in Lincoln's Inn

Sukey Cameron, the Falkland Islands Government UK Representative



Education Watch

Graduates Show Promising Future

Eight Falkland students have graduated with honours from UK universities in a range of disciplines including Nursing, Civil Engineering, Information Systems and Agriculture. Director of Education Dr Langridge said: "These are excellent results and worthy of much commendation. The students deserve many congratulations and Falkland Islanders may be rightly proud of the high esteem which such a set of results brings to the country and the community".

Excellent A Level Results

Falkland Islanders performed extremely well in A Level examinations this year. Of special note were two students; Anna Luxton, who achieved four A grades, and Stephen Betts, whose A A B grades secured him a place at Oxford University. Both students attended Peter Symonds' College in Winchester.

Falkland Islands

NEWS IN BRIEF

Significant Interest Generated in the Islands at the UK County Shows

To promote its near organic status the Falkland Islands Government attended the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh and the Royal Show at Stoneleigh this year. Among the visitors received at the stand was HRH Princess Alexandra who was a guest at the Royal Show. Bob Reid, Falkland Islands Director of Agriculture, reported that the stand had attracted a lot of interest, particularly because the UK is a "long, long way behind us" in adopting organic practices. The stand also displayed and sold a selection of Falkland knitwear and crafts.

During Bob Reid's visit to the UK he also met meat importers and supermarket representatives, two of whom expressed a positive interest in meat from the Falklands. "They are happy with the progress we are making and the numbers that we are likely to produce would suit their operations", he reported.



HRH Princess Alexandra on the Falkland Islands Stand at the Royal Show with Bob Reid, Director of Agriculture Falkland Islands and Sukey Cameron, Falkland Islands Government UK Representative

Overseas Territories Open Day

On 11 July the Foreign Office opened its doors to the public, as part of the London String of Pearls Millennium Festival, to show an exhibition on the Overseas Territories. The 12 Territories, including the Falkland Islands, displayed information on the Territories' history, heritage, environment, economy and cultural backgrounds. Over 4,300 people visited the exhibition, which aimed to raise the profile of the Overseas Territories amongst the general public and media.

New Fish Processing Plant

A fish processing plant to supply international markets with crab, mullet, oysters and mussels will be operating in the Islands from the end of September. The plant is a joint enterprise between fishing company Golden Touza Ltd and Falklands Fresh Ltd, a mussel and oyster project. The Falkland Islands Development Corporation, the commercial arm of the Falkland Islands Government, is a shareholder, together with Golden Touza Ltd and Falklands Fresh Ltd.

Falklands' Photographs Change UK Public's Perceptions

The findings from a questionnaire conducted at two Falkland Islands photographic exhibitions in the UK this year revealed that the exhibition had changed 75% of respondents' views from a negative to a positive view of the Islands.

Visitors admitted, before seeing the exhibition, that their view of the islands was as "a rather barren, hostile place", "cold and inhospitable", "windy and wet". However, after seeing the photographs, comments included, "...a wildlife sanctuary and working, thriving community", "far more temperate than I imagined", "very beautiful and full of character" and a "lovely part of the world!"



Sukey Cameron, the Falkland Islands Government UK Representative, and the Lord Provost of Dundee, Helen Wright, opening the Falkland Islands photographic exhibition in Dundee on 19 April 2000

Visits to the Islands

• Yorkshire Links

Danny Savage, a reporter with BBC Radio Leeds, is visiting the Islands from 17 to 23 October to look at the Islands' strong links with Yorkshire. Danny will be interviewing people from Yorkshire who have made their home in the Islands as well as looking at the relationship that the Falklands' hospital enjoys with Leeds General Infirmary.

• British MPs

Five Members of Parliament from the UK will be in the Falkland Islands on a familiarisation visit from 3 - 8 November. The MPs will visit the capital Stanley and hold discussions with the eight elected Councillors as well as receiving briefings from the Governor, the Chief Executive and the Heads of Department. The MPs will also visit the outlying areas, known as camp, and meet military personnel at Mount Pleasant.

The MPs in the delegation are Sylvia Heal (Labour, Halesowen & Rowley Regis), Stephen Hepburn (Labour, Jarrow), David Watts (Labour, St Helens North), Ian Bruce (Conservative, South Dorset) and Cheryl Gillan (Conservative, Chesham & Amersham).

• Celebrity Chef

Frances Bissell, the celebrity chef who appears in the Times newspaper, is visiting the Islands from 15 - 28 February 2001. Ms Bissell will visit East and West Falkland to gain an insight into the culinary influences that have shaped Falklands' cooking and to exchange ideas about how the Islands' natural produce can be used in domestic cuisine and in the Islands' restaurants, hotels and tourist lodges. Her visit is being sponsored by the Shackleton Scholarship Fund as a "Quality of Life" visitor.

The Falklands website is at

➤ www.falklands.gov.fk

The website has information on the Islands history, society and political and economic development.



For further information on any aspect of the Falkland Islands please contact:

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Falklands Focus

NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 71 APRIL/MAY 2001

The Islands Plan – A Confident Future For The Falklands

A radical, three year plan to achieve sustainable development, safeguard the natural environment and reverse the population decline in Camp - the Islands' term for the countryside - has been published by the Falkland Islands Government.

Finalised in March, 'The Islands Plan' was launched in February at a meeting in Stanley where it was put out to the public for consultation.



Stanley Harbour

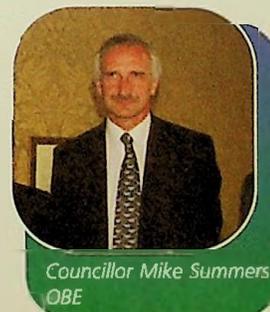
In addition it will help develop cruise ship tourism. There were over 30,000 cruise ship visitors to the Islands last season alone. The conversion of some of these tourists into future longer stay visitors is a further objective of the Plan, through the encouragement of initiatives such as fishing and agri-tourism.

Although the Plan is not reliant on the discovery and exploitation of oil, offshore mineral exploration will be encouraged through the introduction of an Open Door licensing policy. Offshore development, with little onshore impact, will continue to be the aim with strict conservation safeguards enforced to protect wildlife and the environment.

Indeed, throughout the document there are strong policies to prize and to protect the unique environment of the Islands.

Finally, the Plan seeks to improve the quality of life of Falkland Island people and communities, by investment in housing, education and health services.

Reactions to the Plan have been largely positive, reflecting the population's support of the Government's determination to provide the Islands with a strong and sustainable economic future.



Councillor Mike Summers OBE

Councillor Mike Summers OBE described the Islands Plan as a "document to give structure and direction to our future. It is not about maintaining the status quo: it's about change. The future economic prosperity of the Islands depends on diversification and sustainable development."

Fundamental to the development plan - the first comprehensive blueprint since Lord Shackleton's report in the early 1980s - is the need for agricultural diversification from a reliance on wool-based industry to meat production for export and a commitment to constructing a deep-water port.

New deep water port facilities will enable the successful fishing industry to develop onshore and encourage the development of related industries such as freezer plants, mussel farms, oyster beds and fish processing.

Update on the Government's diversification measures see page two

New Diversification Initiatives

• Falkland Islands Focus on Quality

UK agency, The Partners, is working with the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC), the Falkland Islands Government (FIG), the business community and farmers to create a new brand device for superior quality, 'added value' Falkland products. A Government spokesperson said: "Our aim is to target niche market sectors with high quality products, for instance meat, Upland Goose pâté, smoked oysters and mussels, mullet and organic wool. They will benefit from using a brand device which, once established, will become instantly recognised by purchasers as a mark of quality and desirability."

• New Abattoir on Schedule

The new abattoir, being constructed to EU standards, is in the final stages of completion and is due to be opened in July/August 2001. Initial output is expected to be 1,500 sheep per week and FIDC are in talks with potential buyers of Falkland meat.

• Going Organic

The Falkland Islands are on course for many farms to achieve organic status within two years. Having passed the necessary legislation, skilled staff are being trained to take responsibility for producing an organic certification programme for the Islands, for those farmers who wish to participate.

• Diversification Continues as Reindeer Arrive

In early February over 55 reindeer fawns arrived in the Falkland Islands from South Georgia. The new arrivals will be the only commercially farmed reindeer in the Southern Hemisphere.



Reindeer settling in at Saladero

British Parliamentary Visits

• Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers

In February, the Islands received a visit from John Battle MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with responsibility for Latin America. Mr Battle held meetings in Stanley with Councillors and representatives of Government Departments as well as visiting settlements in Camp. He praised the Islands' economic success, self-sufficient status and its promising future saying that he was "surprised" that so many young people chose to return to the Islands after studying abroad. "It's a young country," said Mr Battle, "with young people with bright, new ideas about the future".



John Battle MP



Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC, the FCO Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for the UK's Overseas Territories, visited the Islands at the end of January as part of a visit to British Antarctic Survey bases. She is the first British Minister to visit British Antarctic Territory. During her stay, the Baroness visited residents in Camp, met the Heads of Departments and Councillors and talked with pupils at the Community School in Stanley. Talking about her trip the Baroness said she felt lucky to have had "the real advantage" of seeing the Islands first hand.

Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC, the FCO Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for the UK's Overseas Territories, visited the Islands at the end of January as part of a visit to British Antarctic Survey bases. She is the first British Minister to visit British Antarctic Territory. During her stay, the Baroness visited residents in Camp, met the Heads of Departments and Councillors and talked with pupils at the Community School in Stanley. Talking about her trip the Baroness said she felt lucky to have had "the real advantage" of seeing the Islands first hand.

• MPs Visit

In November four MPs, David Watts and Stephen Hepburn from the Labour Party, and Cheryl Gillan and Ian Bruce from the Conservative Party, visited the Islands on a familiarisation trip sponsored by the Falkland Islands Government (FIG). Clearly impressed after their week-long visit, Cheryl Gillan spoke on behalf of the group saying, "there is a new found confidence which permeates through everybody's presentation and everything we've been shown."

FALKLANDS PROFILE

Focus on...

Public Works Department

The Public Works Department (PWD) is the largest department in the Falkland Islands Government, employing approximately 150 staff. The department is responsible for municipal services, construction projects and supplying water and electricity to the residents of Stanley. PWD is also in charge of the Islands road building projects and supplies stone and asphalt to the private and business sectors.

Head of Department

The Director of Public Works, Mike Forrest, is a chartered civil engineer and has been in the post for five years. His involvement with the Falklands goes back to 1976 when he spent 18 months working on the construction of Stanley airport.

The Islands Highways

PWD has been responsible for the construction of approximately 555km of road on East and West Falkland. This has revolutionised life for people living in Camp, which were often impassable during the winter months.



Mike Forrest, Director of Public Works

Future plans include:

- Rebuilding Stanley's busiest thoroughfare, Ross Road, situated on the waterfront.
- Re-surfacing 30 miles of the road from Stanley to Mount Pleasant Airport over a five-year period.
- Completing a further 250km of roads in Camp.

Capital Projects

Projects being undertaken in Stanley include:

- The extension of Stanley Infant/Junior School to provide new classrooms and areas for specialist subjects including arts and crafts, cookery and science. Camp Education, the long distance learning facility for the 30 plus children living in some of the isolated farm settlements outside Stanley, will also be relocated in the new extension.
- Building of the abattoir to process meat for export and for the 1,700-strong British military garrison, which at present imports its supplies. The steel-framed structure is 6km from Stanley and will have the capacity to process pigs and cattle in addition to sheep.

UK construction company Morrison International Construction Limited is carrying out the work as part of a five-year partnership agreement with the Falklands Islands Government.

The Environment

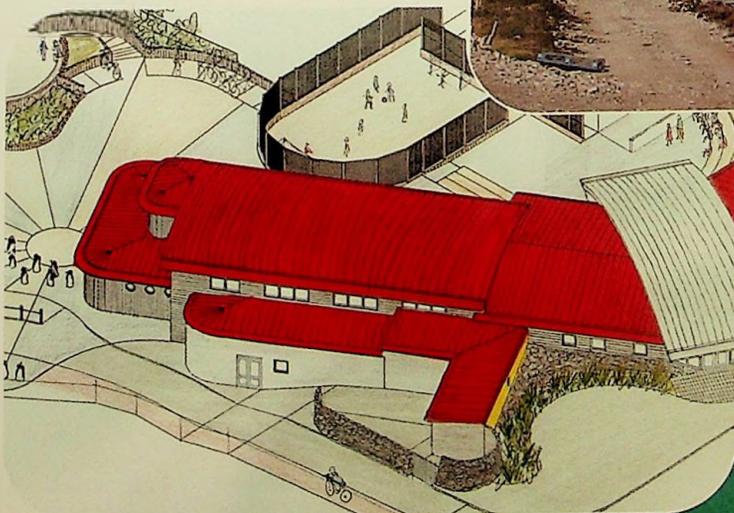
It is estimated that wind power could provide up to 30% of Stanley's power needs and a site for a wind farm is already under investigation.

Departmental Objectives

The PWD is actively seeking accreditation for the Investors in People Award, a UK based certification for training and development excellence. To this end nine PWD employees are taking a diploma in Supervisory Management, to be completed by April 2001, with a UK based company Hertfordshire Business Link.



Building of the new abattoir



Artist's impression of the new Stanley Infant/Junior School extension supplied by the architect's, Radley House Partnership

For more information please contact
pwd.fig@horizon.co.fk

Falkland Islands

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK Representative to Chair UKOTA

Sukey Cameron, the Falkland Islands Government UK Representative, has been appointed Chair of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) for the coming year. UKOTA, previously known as the Dependent Territories Association (DTA), was formed following the successful conference, "Dependent Territories - Progress through Partnership", in November 1993. It is comprised of representatives from nine UK Overseas Territories and exists to promote their interests.



UKOTA Members outside the Commission Office for Development, Brussels. (Left to right) Kedell Worboys (St. Helena), Janice Panton (Montserrat), Jennifer Dilbert (Cayman), Sukey Cameron (Falkland Islands), Bill Samuel (Turks & Caicos), Albert Poggio (Gibraltar).

UK Media Visits to the Falklands

Ben Fogle, star of the hit BBC series "Castaway 2000" was in the Islands in March with Ken Lennox, photographer for celebrity magazine Hello!, to experience island life Falklands-style.

A feature on Ben's adventures is due to be published in the magazine in April.



Ben Fogle star of the BBC series "Castaway 2000"

In late February three UK journalists from prestigious media outlets visited the Islands, in a trip arranged by the Falkland Islands Government. The journalists were Rupert Cornwell from The Independent, Russell Miller from The Mail on Sunday and Nick Allen from The Press Association. Other journalists to visit the Islands recently are the food writer, Frances Bissell (guest of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund), Michael Binyon, The Times and Jimmy Burns, Financial Times.

Destinations 2001

The Falkland Islands Tourist board (FITB) participated at 'Destinations' travel exhibition in London, 1 - 4 February. Over 2,000 people visited the FITB stand, reflecting the growing interest in the Islands as a holiday destination. Tourists flying from the UK to the Islands increased by a dramatic 48% last year.

Conservation on the Curriculum

The Education Manager for the RSPB, Dr Alistair Lavery, visited the Islands recently to advise on developing conservation issues for inclusion in the school curriculum. His visit was encouraged by Falklands Conservation to give young Islanders a greater understanding of the Falklands' natural environment. Dr Lavery said: "I have tried to put together a picture of what people's feelings are about what role the environment should play in the curriculum and the response has been very positive. The schools already do an awful lot and they are keen to do much more."

New Visitors Guide to the Falkland Islands

Next tourist season will see the launch of the first comprehensive, site-by-site 'Visitors Guide to the Falkland Islands', produced by Debbie Summers in conjunction with Falklands Conservation and Falkland Islands Government. Aimed primarily at cruise ship visitors, it contains information on the Islands' wildlife, history and geology, supported with fact sheets and scale maps as well as environmental 'dos and don'ts'. Several photographers have provided the pictures, including Kevin Schafer and Nigel Hawks OBE. Artist Mandy Shepherd has donated illustrations. Profits from the sale of the guide will be used by Falklands Conservation for tourism research studies.

New Census

A census took place in the Islands on 8 April 2001. The new figures are expected to be released in July 2001. The last census revealed a population of 2,221 with 70% under 50 years of age.

Falkland Islands Internet Portal - Live in April

The new Falkland Islands Internet Portal : www.falklandislands.com went live on 5 April. The portal has been steered by an Internet Initiative Group comprising business people, the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) and Government representatives. It has been designed by Constructive Media, a Canadian based company, contracted by FIDC.

The objective of the portal is to put across a welcoming, positive message about the Falklands resulting in people seeking additional information through linked web sites.

General Election on 22 November 2001

The Falkland Islands General Election will be held on 22 November 2001. The elections are held every four years to appoint eight Legislative Councillors, five from Stanley and three from Camp. There are also plans for a referendum on Constitutional Reform later this year.

Tristar Flight Schedule Changes

On Sunday 1 April the RAF introduced a new South Atlantic Schedule. For reservations and further information please contact the Travel Coordinator at the Falkland Islands Government Office.

E-mail: travel@figo.u-net.com

Visit

➔ www.falklands.gov.fk

The website has information on the Islands' history, society and political and economic development.



For further information on any aspect of the Falkland Islands please contact:

Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
E-mail: rep@figo.u-net.com
Website: ➔ www.falklands.gov.fk



Falklands Focus

NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 72 DECEMBER 2001

New Legislative Council Elected

The Falkland Islands has elected eight new Members to serve on the Legislative Council, following a General Election on 22 November. The term of this Council will be for four years.

A turnout of 69% in the Stanley constituency and 82% in the Camp constituency voted for five Councillors to serve from Stanley and three from Camp (the local term for countryside outside Stanley). Seventeen candidates stood in the Election and five of the old Council were returned.

In a non-binding referendum also held on Election day, the people of the Falkland Islands voted against changing the two-constituency system, under which the new Councillors were elected, to a single constituency.

The elected members to Legislative Council for the Stanley constituency are: John Birmingham, Jan Cheek, Richard Cockwell, Stephen Luxton and Mike Summers. Stephen Luxton, 29, is the youngest member on the Council and the only Stanley Member not to have served on the last Council.

From the Camp constituency, husband and wife team Roger and Norma Edwards and Philip Miller were elected. Norma has served on several previous Councils.

The eight Councillors vote each year for three Members to serve on Executive Council. Jan Cheek (Stanley), Norma Edwards (Camp) and Roger Edwards (Camp/Stanley) have been elected to the first Executive Council of this term.

Both the Executive and Legislative Council are chaired by the Governor, although Legislative Council has recently agreed to consider the election of a Speaker. Government officials also attend in either a constitutional or ex-officio capacity, as does the Commander of the British Forces. Only Councillors have the right to vote.

Falkland Islanders enjoy internal self-government as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom.



Left to Right: Philip Miller, Mike Summers, Norma Edwards, Richard Cockwell, John Birmingham, Jan Cheek, Stephen Luxton and Roger Edwards

Showcasing the Falkland Islands

The Falkland Islands Government Office in London has been transformed into a modern showcase for the Islands. Maintaining its traditional shop façade, the stunning new reception area will exhibit local artists' work in a purpose-built gallery area, display Falklands' goods and services and provide general information on the Islands in imaginative displays. Goods will be available for purchase including crafts, cards and books.

Baroness Scotland, the former Minister for the Overseas Territories at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, officially opened the new showcase on 25 October in front of distinguished guests including Members of Parliament, Foreign Office officials and journalists.

Sam Allanson-Bailey, Customer Services & Marketing Manager at Falkland House said: "We are presenting the Islands as they are today, dynamic and forward looking,

combined with a unique charm and a personal touch. We want to show the best of the Falkland Islands, turn people's heads, capture interest – and build business."

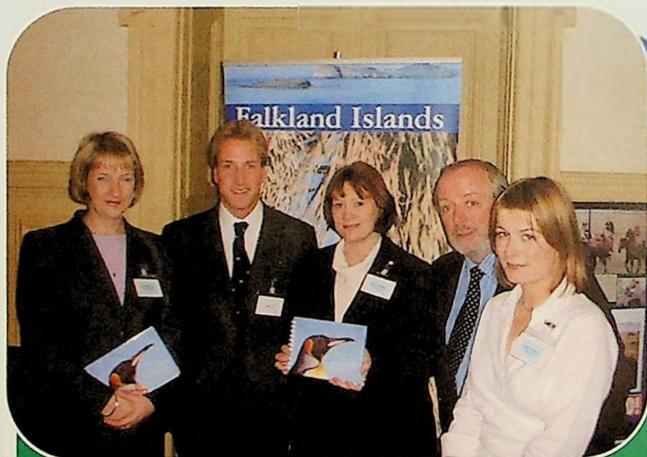


Sukey Cameron and Baroness Scotland

New Visitors Guide to the Falkland Islands

Falklands Conservation has launched a high quality handbook to promote eco-tourism in the Falkland Islands. Entitled "A Visitor's Guide to the Falkland Islands" it will become an essential companion for tour leaders and visitors to the Islands' main wildlife tourist attractions, where sea mammals, penguins, albatross and many other species abound. Written by Falkland Islander Debbie Summers, the Guide contains a comprehensive full colour insight to each of the Islands' top 15 destinations complete with detailed maps, wildlife statistics, geology, outlined nature trails as well as conservation guidelines. In addition, it contains fascinating personal stories and histories relating to the sites. Photography has been donated by a number of respected amateurs and professionals, including award-winning wildlife photographer Kevin Schafer.

The Royal Geographical Society in London provided the launch venue for the Guide on 14 November with Ben Fogle, star of the BBC's "Castaway" programme, as guest-of-honour. Ben visited the Islands in March this year.



Left to Right: Sukey Cameron, Ben Fogle, Becky Ingham (Falklands Conservation), John Fowler (FITB) and Debbie Summers

The guide costs £9 plus £1.50 postage and packing and can be obtained from Falklands Conservation, No.1 Princes Avenue, London N3 2DA T: 020 8343 0831 or it can be purchased online at www.falklandsconservation.com.

Falkland Islands Signs Environment Charter

The Falkland Islands has adopted an Environment Charter to protect and enhance the environment of the Islands. This was signed by Councillor Mike Summers, representing the Falkland Islands Government, and Baroness Amos, the Minister responsible for UK Overseas Territories at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Falkland Representation Abroad

Before the Islands' General Election, Legislative Councillors Sharon Halford and Jan Cheek and the Falkland Islands UK Representative, Sukey Cameron, were at the Labour and Conservative Party Conferences.

At the Labour Conference, a short meeting was held with the new Foreign Office Minister with responsibility for the Islands, Dr. Denis McShane MP, and at the Tory Conference, Falkland representatives were introduced to the new Party Leader, the Rt. Hon. Ian Duncan-Smith MP.

Falkland Islands Councillors, Bill Luxton and Mike Summers, also represented the Islands at the annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Australia in September.



Left to Right: Sukey Cameron, Sharon Halford, the Rt. Hon. Geoff Hoon MP, Secretary of State for Defence, Jan Cheek at the Labour Party Conference

Fishing Industry Update

The economy of the Falkland Islands has changed enormously since the establishment of the controlled fishing zones in 1986. Revenues from fishing licences are currently running at about £27 million per annum and GNP has risen from about £5 million in 1980 to over £55 million in 2000.

Conservationists regard the regime as a model of its type and over £5 million is spent annually on research and protection. Many Falkland Islands businesses are involved in the fishing industry and there are now 26 fishing vessels on the Falkland Islands Register.

The 20th meeting of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission took place in Buenos Aires in late November. A number of issues were discussed including the results from the recent joint cruise on Southern Blue Whiting.

Focus on...

Falkland Islands Development Corporation



Richard Baker, General Manager,
Falkland Islands Development Corporation

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) was set up in 1984 to encourage and assist in the economic development of the Falkland Islands. Since then, it has helped in the start-up of 145 companies; has been involved in 1360 projects, and has invested approximately £25 million in economic development activities throughout the Islands. As the private sector has developed, the FIDC has been able to focus on facilitating the growing export market with marketing and promotional work.

FIDC is headed by the Falkland Islands Development Board (FIDB) which also oversees the work of the Department of Agriculture.

Agricultural Diversification

FIDC is working closely with the Department of Agriculture to assist the farming community, which faces the same problems found the world over. Improved wool production and a move from wool to meat production, through the new EU-specification abattoir, are the two key areas of focus. Opportunities in horticulture, speciality foods, aquaculture and tourism are also being encouraged and developed.

FIDB is also spearheading the Falkland Islands' drive towards legally recognised organic status. Two farms have already been certified and, subject to the Islands' organic certification system being accepted by the European Union as equivalent to the EN 2092 standard, Falklands' organic produce is on target to reach Europe in 2002.

For more information on FIDC please contact:

reception@fidc.co.fk

or write to:

Shackleton House
West Hillside, Stanley

Major Projects

- Development of the 'Falklands Finest' quality certification scheme aimed at creating a recognised presence for superior quality products from the Islands.
- Setting up the EU-specification abattoir and associated meat industry.
- Improved wool marketing.
- Development of a sustainable tourism strategy, based on the natural assets of the Falkland Islands, to cater for specialist holiday groups (wildlife, military or maritime history enthusiasts) and to promote the range of activities that can be enjoyed in the Islands, including photography, sea trout fishing and horse riding. The Islands are also an increasingly popular port-of-call for cruise ships (the Tourist Board is anticipating 39,000 cruise ship visitors in the 2001/02 season) and FIDC is working with local operators and retailers to ensure that all parties get the most from this opportunity.
- Continued development of aquaculture in the Islands through the ongoing work with Falklands Fresh, a local company, which is growing half a million oysters and 200 tonnes of mussels and has recently started exporting snow-crab and local fish from its EU-approved processing plant in Stanley.
- Setting up a horticulture and speciality foods operation on West Falkland.
- Expansion of the rural energy programme (almost all farmers now have wind turbines providing 24 hour power from a renewable source) into the larger settlements.



Investors in People

In October 2001, FIDC became the first organisation in the Falklands to be awarded the prestigious Investors in People Award. This recognises the emphasis that the Corporation places on training and development of people both in the private sector and within the organisation itself.

The Internet and E-Commerce

FIDC has also been instrumental in the development of the Internet in the Falkland Islands and launched a new portal, www.falklandislands.com, this year with e-commerce facilities.

Become a Falklands Friend at
www.falklandislands.com

Falkland Islands

NEWS IN BRIEF

Holiday Programme

The BBC Holiday Programme sent a crew to the Islands in November for a travel feature to be broadcast in March next year. The programme's presenter, Craig Doyle, described it as a "real joy" to be in the Islands and said he was "overawed" by the wildlife.

Stanley Services - Change in Ownership

Following a buy out, Stanley Services Limited is now owned by the Falkland Islands Government, which holds just over 62% of the shares, and S & J D Robertson which has 38%.

Appointments Update

Sylvia Cole has been appointed the new Director of Education. Mrs Cole joins from Leicester City Council, where she held the post of Acting Assistant Director of Education (Schools and College Support).

Falkland Islander Andrew Newman is the new Director of Civil Aviation, replacing Gerald Cheek who is retiring after holding the post for 20 years.

Wetlands Internationally Recognised

Two sites in the Falkland Islands, Sea Lion Island and Bertha's Beach, have fulfilled stringent criteria to be designated for the Ramsar 'List of Wetlands of International Importance'. Twenty-five species of waterfowl, as defined under the Ramsar Convention,



Silvery Grebe

breed in the Islands including the Falklands Flightless Steamer Duck, the Upland Goose and the Silvery Grebe. The Falklands has most of the world's population of the Ruddy-headed Goose. More information can be obtained from Falklands Conservation at www.falklandsconservation.com

In the Media Spotlight

To mark the 20th Anniversary of the Conflict, the leading print and broadcast media are planning to run Falkland Islands stories next year, with many news crews and journalists visiting in order to report on the islands of today and how they have developed since 1982.

Amongst others, comedian Jim Davidson is due to travel out with a BBC film crew in May to film a special feature, including a concert. Food and Travel magazine and BBC Wildlife Magazine are both featuring Falkland Islands features in their January issues.

Diary Dates....

Falkland House Showcase

As Kevin Schafer's Exhibition, "Falkland Islands: Wildlife Paradise", draws to a close, pictures are still available for purchase. A collection of images by Ian Strange will open at the end of January 2002.

British Parliamentarians visiting the Islands

A delegation of British Parliamentarians will visit the Islands in February with the Falkland Islands Government UK Representative, Sukey Cameron.

Falkland Islands Photographic Exhibition

Falkland Islands Photographic Exhibition in Norwich, 1 - 31 March, at the John Innes Centre which is located near to the University of East Anglia. Other venues and dates to be confirmed.

Christmas Message

The Falkland Islands Government would like to wish a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all its friends in the UK.

Falkland Islands Government UK Representative

Visit

➔ www.falklands.gov.fk

The website has information on the Islands' history, society and political and economic development.



For further information on any aspect of the Falkland Islands please contact:

Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
E-mail: rep@figo.u-net.com
Website: ➔ www.falklands.gov.fk

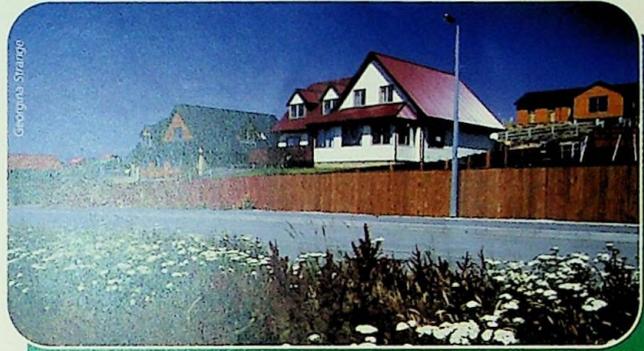


Falklands Focus

NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 73 APRIL/MAY 2002

Security and Prosperity 20 Years On

In 1982, the Falkland Islands was a colony dependent on aid from the UK, but today the archipelago is one of the UK's most dynamic Overseas Territories. It enjoys internal self-government and decisions are made by democratically elected Councillors. It is also economically self-sufficient, in all areas bar defence, following the establishment of the fishery zone in 1986 and the subsequent sale of fishing licences. The population is young and enterprising with almost 80% aged 55 years and under and with 262 registered as 'running their own business'.



New houses in Stanley, the capital of the Islands

The Islands in Snapshot

	1982	2002
Resident Population	1,800 people	2,379 people
Main Economy	Wool	Fisheries, tourism and wool
No. of dwellings in Stanley	463	837
Tourism	Est. 500	30,000 (cruise & land based)
Communication / IT	Two way short band radio	One in two households have internet access
Roads	Stanley only	Over 550km
Main domestic fuel used	Peat	Electricity and gas

Sian Davies - Child of 1982

Sian was born in Stanley in 1982 and studied up to GCSE level in the Falkland Islands at the modern Community School, before continuing her education in the UK. She is now studying Media & Communications at Goldsmiths College, London.

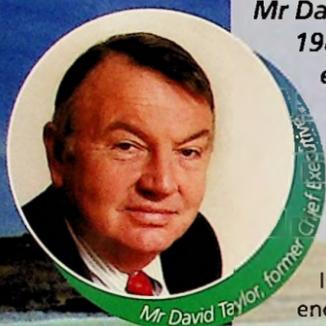


"Growing up in the Falklands was wonderful. One thing that sticks in my mind is the freedom that we had. My family never had to worry where I was, or if something had happened to me because we are such a tight knit community. Crime is low and we have hardly any unemployment.

"What probably makes me different to a young person in Britain is the fact that I would like to give something back to the Islands. Sponsoring students is such a big responsibility for the Falkland Islands Government and such a positive sign for the future. More and more young people are deciding to become qualified in whatever profession they choose and, to me, that is brilliant. Once I finish my degree I hope to get a job in journalism, but my ultimate goal is to return to the Islands and apply what I have learnt.

"Obviously, for some people the Conflict has remained in their minds, and the UK media still haven't forgotten that bleak winter. I will always be eternally grateful for the forces who helped liberate us - without them, I would be speaking Spanish and be none the wiser of how it was before the Conflict. While the Falklands may not have nightclubs, theme parks and high street shopping I don't know many young people in Britain with as high a quality of life as we have in this beautiful, unspoilt land."

Reflections, Impressions and Vision



Mr David Taylor, Chief Executive, 1983 - 1987, returned for eight months in 1988, before being appointed Governor of Montserrat, 1990 - 1993.

"Taking on the role of the first Chief Executive of the Falkland Islands Government was an enormous, but ultimately fulfilling, task. I arrived a year after the War and found a society neglected for 150 years by successive British Governments and commercial companies, all of which had invested only the bare minimum to keep the Islands going.

"My job was to implement the recommendations of the 1982 Shackleton Report for the development of the Islands. I saw it as changing the Islands from a dependency culture to an enterprise one. In Camp (the countryside) my priority was to accelerate the process of land reform to break up the large farms, run by absentee landlords, and create a small farmer class. Likewise in Stanley we needed to provide opportunities for investment in business enterprises and encourage the establishment of a locally owned private sector. That is why we set up the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC), which assisted urban entrepreneurs and farmers alike.

"The Shackleton Report also recognised the wealth potential in the seas around the Falklands and in 1986, after much lobbying, the Fisheries Zone was set up. This has, of course, secured the future of the Islands more than anything else and immediately made them independent of British aid, save for defence.

"The job of Chief Executive has obviously evolved since I was in the post. One of the great changes is the relationship with the elected Councillors. Despite my democratic instincts I needed to be quite authoritarian and these changes occurred in an atmosphere of friendly "creative tension" between Councillors and myself. Today Michael Blanch speaks of a "partnership" which reflects the experience and confidence which Councillors have acquired over the years.

"When I arrived in the Falklands, there were no roads in Camp and communication was by two-way radio whereas today there are over 550kms of road on East and West Falkland and most people have computers and access to email and faxes. In my visit to the Islands earlier this year, I saw a society brimming with optimism and determined not to lose the prosperity that had been achieved in the last 20 years. Argentina, incidentally, was scarcely mentioned."



Falklands Interim Port and Storage System (FIPASS)

Dr Michael Blanch, the present Chief Executive, took up the post in January 2000. Previously Dr Blanch was Chief Executive at Bromley London Borough and before that, Eastbourne Borough Council.

"I felt that the Islands were on the cusp of change, when I arrived, and what happened in the coming years - 2000 to 2003 - would very much set the way for sustainable development into the future. The critical issues for me were, and are, threefold. First, I believed Government needed a sense of where it was headed, a set of visions and corporate plans for the future, supported by local people. The second critical issue was to work with Councillors to help achieve a more democratic and accountable

government; finally, there was a need to achieve sustained economic growth for the future.

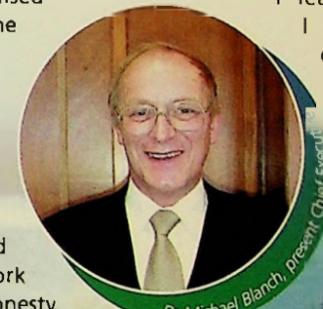
"Working with Councillors we now have an Islands Plan, which makes promises on improved services and quality of life. We are shortly to publish our "success" rate of achievements against promises for 2001 (nearly 80% of our 130 promises delivered) and have already reduced Government spending substantially beyond 10% in efficiencies, and externalised a number of services to the private sector.

"The relationship with Councillors is very different from David Taylor's time. I see it as a partnership between Honourable Members and civil servants. We work together in a spirit of honesty and purpose, as the Civil Service seeks to achieve the democratic mandate of the Members.

"In terms of economic growth, agriculture was the biggest challenge; the joining of the Agricultural Department, Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) and Falkland Landholdings Statutory Corporation (FLH) has helped us to focus resources. This year we will convert 1,500 ha of land to higher productivity pasture; our new abattoir

will be exporting meat, and our new tourism centre will be dealing with almost 30,000, mainly cruise ship visitors, a year. We are also focusing on developing added value from our fishery and the possibility of a major new port facility.

"David told me that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as Chief Executive. So have I. He achieved a remarkable amount for the Islands, and I hope to have built on that by the time I leave. But both of us, I know, see the future of the Islands as increasingly confident and offering an assured future to its young people."



Dr Michael Blanch, present Chief Executive



The first and present Chief Executives speak to Focus

UK Journalistson the Falkland Islands

Over 20 prestigious members of the media have visited the Islands in the last six months, some returning after an absence of twenty years and others as first time visitors.

Jimmy Burns, Home Affairs Editor, Financial Times

"My fondest memories of the Falkland Islands include the cleanliness of the air, and the unspoilt landscape which has transformed every visit I have made into a wonderful escape from the pollution, overcrowding, and negative bustle of urban life. I count some good friends among the Islanders: individuals who have shown extraordinary generosity of spirit and hospitality. Finally, how can I not mention the wildlife? How very special to be able to watch penguins and other sea life that have found their home in this South Atlantic haven."

Rob Kirk, Editor, Sky News

"The Falkland Islands was not at all what I expected. The images from 1982 showed it as cold, dark and wet, with people bent against snow and permanent gale-force winds. In fact, the mountains were majestic, the coastal waters looked tropical, the clear night-sky was breathtaking, and we filmed the astonishing wildlife in superb conditions. Nor too did we expect the vitality of the Islands and we took away an impression of energy and spirit....the next 20 years will be just as interesting."

Anthony Browne, Environment Editor, The Observer

"I found the Falklands an utterly charming slice of Britain in the South Atlantic, a unique community with a unique outlook, and a standard of living that most people in Britain could only envy - friendly, safe, cosy, affluent. The community is small - and being a Londoner, I am not sure I could live for long with less than 3,000 neighbours - but that is made up for by the fact that everyone I met was a great character. All Falkland Islanders, both belongers and members of old Island families, were interesting people with great stories to tell."



Falkland Islands

NEWS ROUND UP

Young Islander Presented to the Queen

Emily Hancox (12), from Stanley, was presented to Her Majesty the Queen at Westminster Abbey on Commonwealth Observance Day on 11 March. She was one of only five children to be presented to Her Majesty after the Commonwealth Service.

Emily earned this great honour after winning a poster competition and having her entry chosen to appear on a Commonwealth leaflet, called *Celebrating Diversity*.



First Speaker Appointed

The Falkland Islands Government has appointed its first Speaker of Legislative Council. Falkland Islander, Lionel Geoffrey 'Tim' Blake OBE JP, will preside over Legislative Council and assume a role that has traditionally been taken by the Governor. Mr Blake, a former Councillor, said: "It will be a learning process for us all and I am very much looking forward to the task."

EU Inspection of Abattoir

In January, a European Union Inspector carried out the vital inspection of the newly completed abattoir to decide whether it receives EU approval. Falkland Islands Development Corporation General Manager Richard Baker said: "An EU approved abattoir will allow export of Falkland Islands meat to Europe where we hope to gain a small foothold in the organic market." The decision is expected in May.

Photographic Exhibition in Norwich

A photographic exhibition, organised by the Falkland Islands Government Office, opened on 7 March at the John Innes Centre in Norwich. The exhibition, "Falklands in Focus", was officially opened by Peter Smith, Vice Chairman of South Norfolk District Council. Local MP Richard Bacon, who visited the Islands recently, said: "You get the impression of a place that is dynamic, vibrant and economically buzzing. It's a wonderful place to visit". The exhibition will move to Belfast for display at Queen's University from 7 to 28 May.



Left to Right, South Norfolk Councillor Peter Smith, Falklands Councillor Mike Summers and Sukey Cameron

MPs note "Optimistic Mood"

In February, Labour MPs Frank Roy and Kevan Jones, Conservative MP Richard Bacon and Conservative MEP Struan Stevenson visited the Islands on a familiarisation trip. At a press conference, they all said how impressed they were with the optimistic mood of the Islanders. Mr Stevenson, Chairman of the European Parliament Fisheries Committee, was also very impressed at the management of the fisheries saying: "Conservation is of primary importance and it looks like you are managing the whole fisheries sector in a way that I think we should emulate in the EU."



Sukey Cameron, Falkland Islands Government UK Representative, with visiting parliamentarians and Councillors Richard Cockwell and Philip Miller

Diary Dates....

Liberation Day, 14 June

There will be a service of Commemoration and a wreath laying ceremony in Stanley. The British Forces Falkland Islands will be presented with the Freedom of the Falkland Islands by His Excellency the Governor.

County Shows

The Falkland Islands Government is exhibiting at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh, 20 - 23 June, and the Royal Show in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, 1 - 4 July.

New Showcase Exhibition

A collection of paintings by David McEwen will be exhibited at Falkland House, London, 17 April - 16 July.

Commonwealth Games Manchester, 25 July - 4 August

The Falkland Islands will be represented by two full bore rifle shooters, one clay pigeon shooter, at least one pistol shooter and one badminton singles player.

Royal Visit

HRH Prince Andrew visits the Islands in November for Remembrance Sunday.

Veterans' Visit

Up to 200 veterans are expected to visit the Islands on a pilgrimage with the South Atlantic Medal Association in November.

For further information on any aspect of the Falkland Islands please visit:

➔ www.falklandislands.com

➔ www.falklands.gov.fk



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NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 74 OCTOBER 2002

Islands Attract Interest at Agricultural Shows

Visitors to the Falkland Islands stand at this year's Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh, and Royal Show, Stoneleigh, included HRH The Princess Royal. The stand attracted potential business contacts ranging from mussel farmers, organic and wool companies to leading supermarkets.

Attending from the Islands were Dr Peter Johnston, Director of Agriculture, and Mr Ian Hansen, farmer and Chairman of the Rural Business Association. Both noted the opportunities for business and raising awareness of the Islands and its ongoing diversification initiatives to the 285,000 people who attended the shows.

Sukey Cameron, the Falkland Islands Government UK Representative said: "We were delighted to be back at the Shows for a fourth year. We had some news to tell – not least, the success of farms in attaining organic certification, the completion of our abattoir, which has capacity to process 1,500 sheep per week, and the launch of The Way Forward by the Department of Agriculture, a project to increase farm profitability."



HRH The Princess Royal at The Royal Show, Stoneleigh

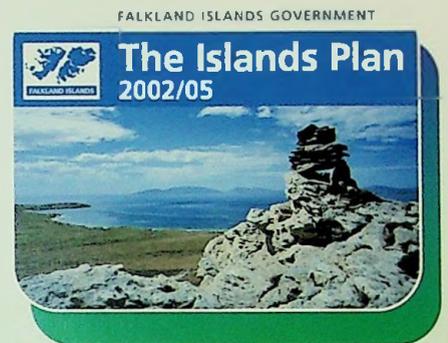
Fifth Anniversary Of LanChile Service

The Falkland Islands recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of the weekly commercial air service by LanChile, linking Santiago, Puerto Montt, Punta Arenas and Mount Pleasant airports. Departing each Saturday, the route also includes a stop once a month, each way, at Rio Gallegos, Argentina. Servicing the route is the airline's new Airbus 320 aircraft, with seating capacity for 150 passengers.

During the 2001/02 visitor season, LanChile arrivals rose 40% compared to the previous year and talks are ongoing for a second weekly flight service.



LanChile aircraft at Mount Pleasant Airport



Islands Plan Updated 2003-2005

The Falkland Islands Government's radical plan to achieve sustainable development, safeguard the natural environment and reverse the population decline in Camp (countryside) has achieved 80% of the targets set for its first year.

The four-year rolling development programme for the Falkland Islands has been reviewed and revised. A booklet is available, "The Islands Plan 2002-05", which contains a summary of the Plan based on ten top 'themes'. Copies are available from Falkland Islands Government Office, London.

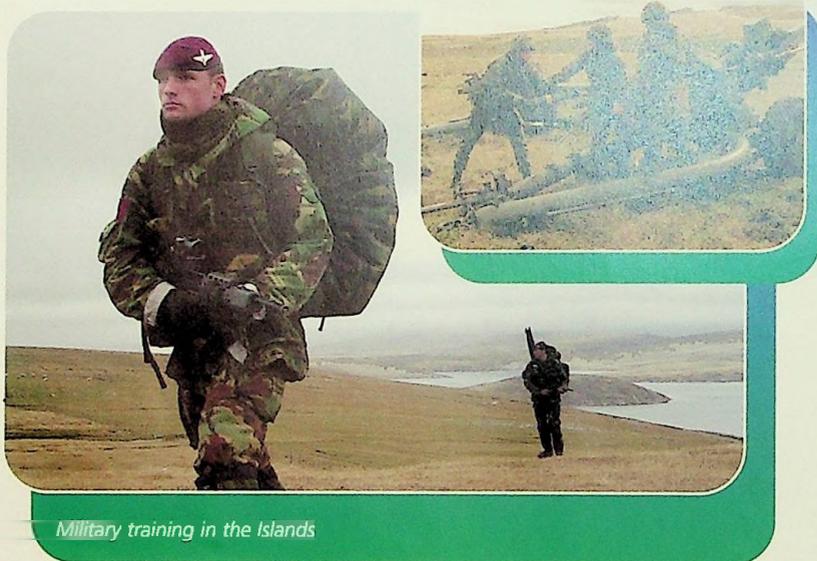
FALKLAND ISLANDS

Ideal Location For Military Training

The Falkland Islands are host to 1,200 military personnel and is one of the few places in the world where all three services can train together. Squadron Leader Steve Bostock said: "The Falkland Islands' terrain and unique climate tests the best and provides invaluable training experience."

The Islands also offer unparalleled training opportunities for the Royal Air Force. Squadron Leader Tony Smith, Officer Commanding 1435 Flight, explained: "The airspace is more open so Tornados can fly at low and medium level without contending with civil routes. Low level flying is an essential skill that we have to practice on a regular basis."

A recent example of such training was a major exercise, 'Silver Teal', which simulated a RAF Chinook helicopter crashing near Mount Pleasant airfield with 30 people on board. "The exercise was designed to ensure the entire station was properly prepared to cope with such an air disaster," said Squadron Leader Bostock.



Military training in the Islands

Oil Exploration Set To Start In South Falklands Basin

The Falkland Islands Government has awarded ten offshore exploration licences to the Falklands Hydrocarbon Consortium, comprising of Global Petroleum, Hardman Resources Ltd and the Falkland Islands Company. The licences cover 57,700 sq km in the South Falklands Basin and permit oil and gas exploration over an initial three year period.

In 1998, drilling in the North Falkland Basin resulted in five of the six wells indicating the presence of oil and high levels of gas. Whilst none of the wells encountered commercially viable deposits, enough was learnt about the basin's petroleum systems to anticipate success in future operations.



Falkland Islands drilling platform

Commonwealth Games Success

The Falklands' team put in a strong performance at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. The six competitors - four shooters and two Badminton players - achieved new personal bests and Falklands records as well as beating competitors from larger countries. Falkland Islands Team Manager, Patrick Watts, described the Games as "the most successful ever" for the Falklands. The team's efforts attracted significant interest from the international media. The Falkland Islands Overseas Games Association (FIOGA) is now working towards the 2003 Island Games in Guernsey.



Saul Pitaluga at Bisley Clay Pigeon Range during the Commonwealth Games

20th Anniversary Pilgrimage

Falkland Islanders have raised over £30,000 towards the cost of the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA) 20th Anniversary visit, timed to coincide with Remembrance Sunday on 10 November. Over 200 veterans will be hosted by local people in Stanley, from 6 - 14 November. Councillor Richard Cockwell says: "We are looking forward to welcoming the veterans. We remember the courage and professionalism of those who defended our Islands and will always be grateful to them."

On Liberation Day in June this year, the Governor of the Falkland Islands, His Excellency Donald Lamont, bestowed the Freedom of the Falkland Islands on all components of the British Forces serving in the Falklands or the waters surrounding the Islands now and in the future. This is the highest honour that can be awarded by the Islands.

Focus on...

Falkland Islands Civil Aviation

History

In 1948, spurred by an article about the Australian Flying Doctor Service, the then Governor Sir Miles Clifford decided to introduce an air service for the Falkland Islands. On 19 December, Captain Vic Spencer flew the Islands' first aircraft from Stanley Racecourse. Five days later, a message was received from Camp that a young girl was critically ill and required immediate hospitalisation. The air service attended and the flight's success not only allayed criticism of the new venture but resulted in the establishment of the Falkland Islands Government Air Service (FIGAS).

FIGAS Profile

Fraser Wallace, 40
FIGAS General Manager



FIGAS General Manager, Fraser Wallace

The Fleet

From 1949, three Auster land-planes were operated by FIGAS. These were replaced in 1955 by the De-Havilland Beaver floatplane. In 1979 the first Britten-Norman Islander land-plane joined the fleet.

Today FIGAS operates six Islander aircraft from its base at Stanley Airport. Four aircraft operate on a non-scheduled taxi service to 39 locations throughout the Islands. The other two are equipped specifically for aerial surveillance of the 200 mile conservation zone surrounding the Islands to protect against illegal fishing. The aircraft have enhanced travel in the Islands as they are larger, seating nine, carry bigger loads and give passengers a faster, smoother journey.

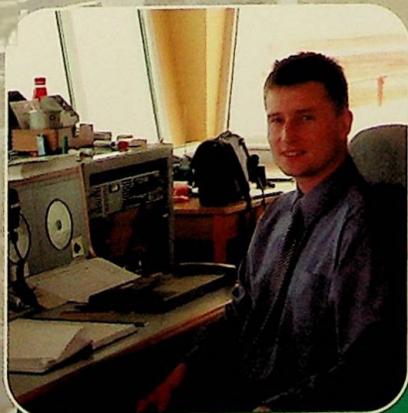
Fraser Wallace, a Falkland Islander, was appointed General Manager in March 2002.

Fraser says: "The task of the air service differs little from that perceived by Sir Miles Clifford in 1948. One distinction is our role in introducing international tourists to the Islands. This includes enabling military personnel to take their R&R at the Islands' wildlife lodges or with local families. FIGAS is proud to introduce so many of our visitors to the unique attractions of the Falklands."

Department of Civil Aviation Profile

Andrew Newman, 30
Director of Civil Aviation

Andrew, a Falkland Islander, was appointed Director of Aviation in October 2001, having trained at various UK airports. The Department of Civil Aviation is responsible for regulating Stanley Airport, 39 licensed airstrips, FIGAS, British Antarctic Survey and private aviation. It also licenses air traffic control, pilots and engineers. Andrew says: "Falkland Islands Aviation is a credit to the people who created and maintain it and I am proud of my role within the Department."



Director of Civil Aviation, Andrew Newman



FIGAS Islander



Former FIGAS Pilot Ian Campbell with De Havilland Beaver Aircraft

FIGAS Facts:

- FIGAS employs five pilots and ten ground crew
- FIGAS carries about 8,000 passengers each year and 75,000 kilos of freight
- Of the 39 licensed airstrips in the Islands about 25 are used on a regular basis
- Flying time from Stanley to Port Howard is 30 minutes and to Sea Lion Island, 35 minutes
- On 1 May 1986 Stanley Airport was returned to Civil Aviation from the control of the RAF which began after the Liberation in 1982.

Falkland Islands

NEWS IN BRIEF

Falkland Islands On The International Stage

Councillors have been busy promoting the interests of the Falkland Islands. Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) events held in Namibia, Kiribati, London and Wales were attended by Councillors Richard Cockwell, a member of the CPA Executive Committee, Mike Summers, Stephen Luxton and Roger Edwards.

Councillors Norma Edwards and Philip Miller put forward the Islands' case at the UN Decolonisation Committee meeting in New York, whilst Councillor Mike Summers, Sukey Cameron and Falkland Islands Government Economic Advisor, Michael Harte, attended an EU meeting to discuss development funding for Overseas Countries and Territories in Bonaire (Dutch Caribbean). Councillor Jan Cheek and Sukey Cameron were representatives at the annual Overseas Territories Consultative Council meeting at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

To end a busy year, Councillors John Birmingham and Roger Edwards, accompanied by Sukey Cameron, will be attending the Labour and Conservative Party Conferences.

New Governor

The Governor designate, Howard Pearce CVO, will be sworn in on 3 December 2002. He will be moving to the Islands from Malta, where he was High Commissioner. Since joining the FCO in 1972, he has held a number of posts in London and overseas, including Buenos Aires (1975-1978), during which time he visited the Islands on several occasions.

Islands History Documented

After ten years of dedicated work, Government Archivist, Jane Cameron, assisted by Tansy Newman, has produced the first-ever guide to the Falkland Islands Government Archives.

The Guide details historic records, ranging from government manuscripts to local periodicals, maps, farm records, photographs and drawings. The earliest document is a letter of appointment dated 1831.



New Falkland Islands Archives Building



Governor designate Howard Pearce CVO

New Marketing Manager At FIDC

Connie Stevens has been appointed to the new post of Marketing Manager at the Falkland Islands Development Corporation. Starting in October, Connie brings with her a wide range of experience of marketing and commercial enterprise.

Duke Returns To Islands

HRH The Duke of York will be visiting the Islands in November to commemorate twenty years since the Conflict. Dates are to be confirmed but he is expected to be in Stanley for Remembrance Sunday.

Support For Ex-Servicemen

Falkland Islands Government has donated £1,000 to support the work of Home Base, a UK charity set up to help people facing homelessness as they leave the Armed Forces. This follows a donation of £5,000 made last year.

FIG contributes each year to: Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, Royal Naval Benevolent Fund for Officers, Royal Naval Benevolent Fund and the Army Benevolent Fund. Other donations include Royal Marines Memorial, SSAFFA and SAMA 82.



Sukey Cameron presenting cheque to representative of Homebase

Diary Dates....

Showcase Exhibition

A collection of images taken by Falklands photographer Ian Strange and his daughter Georgina will be exhibited at Falkland House, London, from 15 October.

Falklands in Focus

A Photographic Exhibition, organised by Falkland Islands Government Office, will take place at Oxford Town Hall, 29 October - 2 November.

"Songs of Praise"

The BBC "Songs of Praise" Remembrance Sunday programme on 10 November will feature the Falkland Islands and Falklands Memorial Chapel in Pangbourne.

For further information on any aspect of the Falkland Islands please visit:

➤ www.falklandislands.com

➤ www.falklands.gov.fk



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NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 75 MARCH/APRIL 2003

Building a Sustainable Future

EU Approval for Abattoir

Diversification plans were further advanced in January when the Islands' abattoir received approval from the European Union (EU) to export meat. The news signalled a major breakthrough in the Islands' bid to become an important player in the premium organic lamb market by 2010.

The first consignment of meat will arrive in the UK in April and the Islands' Meat Marketing Board has reported positive interest from UK importers.

Richard Baker, outgoing General Manager of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC), said: "We believe we have something new and of high quality to offer consumers. Our livestock is grazed on pure, natural pastures and visitors always comment on the taste and tenderness of the meat. Indeed, the significant interest in Falkland Islands' meat is primarily because of the clean and green approach to its production."

In the future, the best of Falkland Islands meat will leave the Islands with a "Falklands Finest" stamp, a new accreditation scheme to promote the Islands' highest quality products.

The Islands Plan

The abattoir is not the only diversification initiative set out in the 'Islands Plan', the Falkland Islands Government's three-year rolling programme to achieve sustainable development. Several others are progressing on target:

Organic Certification Process

Nine farms have now been certified as organic under the EU-recognised organic certification process, established in August 2001. As the majority of the remaining farms are already 'free range', the Islands could conceivably become the world's first officially designated organic country. In January, the process was further formalised with the establishment of the Falkland Islands Development Board (FIDB) as an Organic Certification Board.

A Port Authority

Acclaimed as one of the best-managed fisheries in the world, an operational review of the industry was undertaken last year to assess the existing policy and to recommend reforms for future development.

An important recommendation was the establishment of a Port Authority, independent of the Falkland Islands Government, with overall responsibility for operating and developing port facilities on a commercial basis. A three-year strategic plan will be drawn up with the objective of establishing the Authority from July 2004.



The new EU approved abattoir at Sand Bay

Sustainable Aquaculture

The Islands' Plan also makes provision for the development of sustainable aquaculture. Results of a study commissioned by FIDC into potential sites for finfish and shellfish aquaculture were published in December. The findings were discussed at a public meeting in February and it was agreed that legislation should be in place by the end of the year to enable the marine farming industry to develop.

On Target To Meet Long Term Objectives

While new initiatives make progress, the Islands' main income provider, based on the sale of fishing licences, continues to prosper with all the available licences sold for 2003. Farmers have seen their traditional economic mainstay, wool, rise in value too, indicating a recovery from the dramatic price falls of the 1990s.

The Islands are confident that they are working towards a stable and prosperous future based on long-term sustainable development.

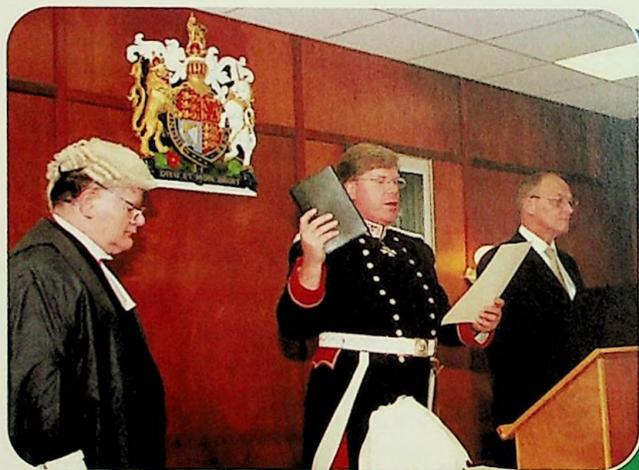
New Faces

In 2003, several key positions in the Falkland Islands have new faces, bringing further skills and fresh drive to continue the successful development of the Islands.

Governor

HE The Governor, Howard Pearce, CVO has experienced a busy schedule since arriving in the Islands on 2 December 2002. In recent press interviews, he reports a favourable impression of the Falklands today and has confirmed the British Government's commitment to self-determination and to respect the wishes of the Islanders on the sovereignty issue.

Mr Pearce recently attended the Foreign & Commonwealth Office 'Leadership Conference', a meeting of all British Diplomatic Heads of Missions, including Governors, from around the world. This was the first conference of its kind and speakers included Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.



New Governor at his swearing in ceremony

New Year Honour

Claudette Anderson, Clerk of Councils in the Legislature Department of Falkland Islands Government, has been made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE). Ms Anderson (48) is also the Government's Public Relations Officer and Honorary Secretary of the Falklands branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Her role has included organising the programmes of four royal visits to the Falkland Islands in recent years, as well as overseeing regular visits by MPs, senior officials and international media.

Rector of Christ Church Cathedral

Outside of Government, the Reverend Paul Sweeting takes up the post of Rector of Christ Church Cathedral in Stanley in May 2003. He comes to the Islands from Blackburn, where he was curate at Saint Gabriel's Church. He replaces Reverend Alistair McHaffie.

Chief Executive

Chris Simpkins took up his role as Chief Executive of Falkland Islands Government on 3 March 2003. He was previously Chief Executive of South Holland District Council in Lincolnshire and an adviser to the Minister for Rural Affairs. Among his achievements is the creation of the UK's first Rural Action Zone.



*New Chief Executive
Chris Simpkins*

Mr Simpkins (50) will be looking to take forward, with Councillors, plans for modernisation of government and development of the economy.

He succeeds Dr Michael Blanch who returns to the UK upon successful completion of his three-year contract.

General Manager, Falkland Islands Development Corporation

Julian Morris (41) has been appointed to the post of General Manager, Falkland Islands Development Corporation, arriving in the Islands mid-March.

Previously, Mr Morris was Managing Partner of The Principle Partnership, a specialist consultancy and recruitment service he founded in 1997. He has since sold the majority of his interests. Before that, he was Commercial Director of the Real Meat Company. His early career was spent in small to medium sized businesses before joining 3i PLC, advising new businesses on venture capital for start-ups and development.

Qualified as an accountant and in marketing, Mr Morris holds a Masters in Business Administration from Henley Management College.



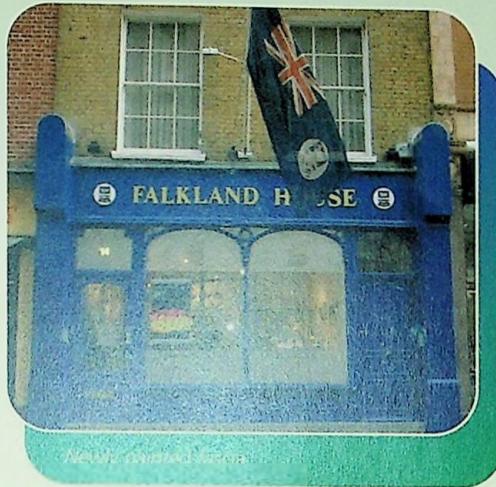
Claudette Anderson greeting HRH The Duke of York in November 2002

Focus on...

20th Anniversary of the Falkland Islands Government Office, London

History

After the Liberation in 1982, the Falkland Islands Government made the decision that there should be official representation in the UK. Six months later, in January 1983, FIGO opened its doors, with assistance from the Falkland Islands Association. After several moves during the first five years, the office took up permanent residence at 14 Broadway, Westminster, in August 1989.



Representative

Sukey Cameron, a Falkland Islander, has held the post of Representative since 1990. Miss Cameron has overseen a range of initiatives designed to increase awareness of the Islands. Highlights have included: the very successful Falklands Forum business conference; the launch of the South Atlantic Medal Association; the Annual Receptions; participation at Agricultural Shows and attendance at the Party Conferences to meet politicians and opinion-formers. She has also been involved in four Royal visits, including a visit by HRH The Prince of Wales in 1999, and some high profile media visits including The Clothes Show programme and Ground Force, the BBC's highly successful garden 'make-over' programme last year.



Sukey Cameron

Sukey Cameron says: "The staff at FIGO pride themselves on the central role they play in changing people's attitudes and perceptions of the Islands as well as strengthening understanding of the Islands' way of life and our place in UK history and culture."

Milestones - The Road to Self-Sufficiency

FIGO played a crucial role in the development of the Island's economic autonomy, when in 1986 a fishing zone of 150-mile radius around the Islands was declared. FIGO conducted the first licensing round and the office was inundated with licence applications and visitors.

Falklands 'Showcase'

A bright and modern exhibition area in Falkland House, formally opened in October 2001 by Baroness Scotland, houses wonderful displays, pictures and photographs that illustrate the beauty and diversity of the Islands. This year a series of events will be held at the office, one of which will commemorate its Anniversary.

Services

FIGO is also responsible for the following services:

- Public and media relations
- Working with Westminster to create a body of supportive MPs and Peers as well as arranging annual fact-finding missions for MPs to the Islands
- The recruitment of professionals for the Civil Service, including teaching, medical and agricultural sectors
- Medical transfer patients, i.e., those patients requiring specialist medical services not available in the Islands
- Travel arrangements for visitors to the Islands on the air service run by the Royal Air Force

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation, the advisory body to the Falkland Islands Government on economic development, also has a representative in the office.

2003 MPs Visit

Nigel Evans MP and Richard Ottaway MP, of the Conservative Party, and Alistair Carmichael MP, Liberal Democrats, (two members of the Labour Party had to withdraw at short notice) took part in this year's annual fact-finding mission to the Islands, 14 - 20 February, organised by FIGO. During the visit, the MPs reported extremely positive impressions of the Islands to the local media and took the opportunity to compliment the Falkland Islands Government on the work of the London Representative, Sukey Cameron, who accompanied the MPs. Mr Ottaway said: "Sukey has a very high profile in London. The Falklands is more than adequately represented and if the Islands should slip out of our minds it would not be for long."



Falkland students with the visiting MPs Richard Ottaway, Alistair Carmichael and Nigel Evans

Visits to the Islands

Twenty Years On ... SAMA 82 Pilgrimage to the Falkland Islands

The first South Atlantic Medal Association '82 (SAMA) pilgrimage to the Falkland Islands took place from 6 - 14 November, during which Islanders and over 200 veterans and next of kin from the Conflict came together in an emotional reunion. Also present were Combat Stress representatives, Opposition Spokesperson for Defence, Gerald Howarth MP, and a 16-strong press delegation. The visit far exceeded all expectations and SAMA Committee is planning a future series of smaller pilgrimages.



Sukey Cameron, Rick Jolly, Denzil Connick and Tony Davies outside Falkland House, London, with Gold Medallions for HM The Queen

... And Gold Jubilee Gift for HM The Queen

On return from the Pilgrimage, Surgeon Commander Rick Jolly, co-founder of SAMA, accompanied by members Denzil Connick and Tony Davies, and Sukey Cameron of Falkland Islands Government, presented HM The Queen with a set of gold medallions, showing the obverse and reverse of the South Atlantic Medal.

Royal Visitor Opens School

HRH The Duke of York officially opened the new £3m extension to the Infant and Junior School while in the Islands on a visit to coincide with Remembrance Sunday, 20 years after the Falklands Conflict.

New facilities at the school include an extensive library, computer facilities, a Learning Support Unit for children with special needs, child-sized cookers, work benches, science facilities and outdoor play areas.



HRH The Duke of York opening the Junior School Extension

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Visit

Tom Cox MP, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CPA's UK branch, and Andrew Pearson, Secretary, visited the Falkland Islands on a fact-finding tour in January. The Falkland Islands, part of the British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BI&M), will host the CPA Regional Conference in February 2004.

Diary Dates....

19 - 22 June

Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh

28 June - 4 July

The 2003 NatWest Island Games, Guernsey

29 June - 2 July

Royal Show, Stoneleigh Park

Tourism News

FITB at Destinations 2003

Falkland Islands Tourist Board exhibited at "Destinations 2003" in London, the UK's largest consumer travel show attended by over 40,000 people. Highlights included a Falklands talk by Will Wagstaff, tour leader and Bradt guidebook author. Most recently, Mr Wagstaff led the first "Falklands Odyssey", an exclusive Islands-only voyage organised by Quark Expeditions.

Cruise Ship Visits

"The World" of Residensea, billed as the world's most luxurious ship, is scheduled to visit West Point Island and Stanley on 27 and 28 December, 2003 respectively.

During the 2002/2003 season, over 100 cruise landings were scheduled with three new sites available to smaller vessels - George and Barren Islands and Steeple Jason. Steeple Jason is home to the world's largest breeding colony of black-browed albatross.

Falkland Islands Names National Flower

The Pale Maiden (*Olsynium Filifolium*) has been named the national flower of the Falkland Islands. This delicate flower was chosen by popular opinion and its new status was approved at the January 2003 meeting of the Legislative Council.



Pale Maiden

Seabirds' Mystery Illness

Falkland Islands Government continues to work with conservationists, scientists and organisations within the Islands to

establish the cause of a deadly illness affecting a relatively small, but concerning percentage of Gentoo penguins, and other wildlife species. Extensive levels of penguin mortality elsewhere in the region have been attributed to 'red tide', a climatic harmful algae bloom. This explanation is currently under investigation.

Support For Ex-Servicemen

For the second year running, The Falkland Islands Government has donated £1,000 to support the work of Home Base, a UK charity set up to help people facing homelessness as they leave the Armed Forces. These payments follow an initial donation of £5,000 in 2001.

For further information on any aspect of the Falkland Islands please visit:

➔ www.falklandislands.com

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Falklands Focus

NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 76 OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2003

Wishes of Falkland Islanders declared at the United Nations

Since its election, the new Argentine Government has continued to state that its "end goal is to recover sovereignty" over the Islands. At the same time, the British Government continues to re-iterate its unwavering position with regards to sovereignty, supporting the wishes of Falkland Islanders.

Falkland Islands Councillors Mike Summers and John Birmingham addressed the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization (C24) in New York on 16 June. The Councillors spoke of self-determination and the Islanders' overwhelming wish to remain British. The new Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs, Rafael Bielsa, ignored both principle and population to reiterate his country's claim, insisting that a solution is to be found only through talks with Britain and excluding Falkland Islands representatives.

In their speeches, Councillors argued that the Argentine claim to the Islands was baseless, as it relied solely on the dubious grounds of history and territorial integrity, and they suggested instead that the newly elected Government may create an opportunity for Argentina to show political maturity on the world stage. Councillors proposed that in future no resolution on the Falkland Islands should be brought which did not note the right to self-determination of all peoples.

While no new outcomes were decided in the Falklands case, during the meeting Committee Chairman, Earl Huntley of St. Lucia, indicated that he wished to see more action across the board. The Committee acknowledged the progress being made in the constitutional reform of the UK Overseas Territories.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Regional Conference

In June, Councillors Richard Cockwell and Stephen Luxton, together with Clerk of Councils Claudette Anderson, attended the CPA Annual Regional Conference held in London and Cambridge.

A series of workshops were held, one of which focused on "Sustainable Management of Marine Resources and Ocean Protection", introduced by Cllr. Cockwell and supported by Dr David Agnew of Imperial College, who gave an expert view on some of the issues raised.

The next Regional meeting will be held in February 2004 in the Falkland Islands. A high level of interest to visit the Islands was reported. "Hosting the conference will be an honour for the Falklands," Cllr. Cockwell comments. He notes: "This will be a great opportunity for Members of the Region to see the Falkland Islands for themselves and we look forward to welcoming them and to demonstrating the progress made in recent years."



Members attending the CPA British Isles and Mediterranean Region Annual Conference 2003



Speaker of the House of Commons, Michael Martin MP (second from left) with Falkland delegates

Constitutional Reform Continues to Progress

In line with the 1999 White Paper "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity" agreed between the British Government and its remaining Overseas Territories, Falkland Islands Government (FIG) confidently continues its mission to protect and improve the quality of life for the people of the Falkland Islands.

This is being achieved in partnership with Britain, through modernising the Islands' economy within sustainable environmental principles, by embracing reform and modernisation of FIG and by commitment to the development of the Islands' Constitution, with increasing openness and accountability in Government.

Fishing Revenue Rises

Falkland Islands fishing revenue totalled £26.4million for the financial year ending 30 June 2003, according to the Government's Department of Fisheries. This figure includes some late licence payments from the 2002 season and is 12% above earlier estimations.



Fishing vessel



FIG funded Fishery Patrol in action

South Atlantic Fisheries Commission Progress

British and Argentine delegations at the 23rd meeting of the Commission, held in London in July, reported progress on stock management issues, as both sides agreed the need to collect data from vessels fishing on the high seas in addition to that already collected from their respective zones.

The two delegations exchanged views on further issues relating to co-operation on fisheries conservation. They concurred that the timely establishment of a multilateral agreement would provide the necessary long-term mechanism to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks in the high seas of the South West Atlantic.

Falklands Win Medals at Island Games

One silver and two bronze medals were won by Falkland Islanders competing in shooting events at the tenth NatWest Island Games, held in Guernsey in July.

The Falkland Islands sent a team of 23 sportsmen and women to the Games and finished in sixteenth position in the final medal table.

In winning the silver medal in the Police Pistol 1 competition and a bronze in the NPA Service Pistol B event, Graham Didlick established himself as the Falklands' most successful competitor since it first participated in the Island Games in 1993, accruing a total of eleven medals.

Gareth Goodwin and Chris McCallum won the second bronze for full-bore rifle shooting in the Queens Pairs competition.

Saul Pitaluga won a gold Small Islands Certificate in the ISSF Automatic Ball Trap Clay pigeon shooting event too. These Certificates were introduced at the 2001 Games to involve the six islands entered that have populations of 10,000 people or less. The Falklands had the third smallest population of the competing 23 member islands.

Bisley Brings Biggest Win Ever For Defence Force Shooters

In its best performance to date, the Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) fire team won an array of medals at three separate shooting competitions at Bisley this year: The Army Rifle Association meeting, the Territorial Army meeting and the National Rifle Association meeting.

Team medals included Silver in the Alexander Trophy competition, Silver in the Combat Snap Shoot and Bronze in the Territorial Army Falling Plate competition. Over twelve individual medals were won, including a gold for the top TA competitor in the Kinnaird Cup plus first place in the Home Guard competition for Captain Clarke, the Tara Golf for top Territorial Army competitor for Corporal Smith, and Private Biggs won first place in the Cambridgeshire Cup pistol shoot.

Falklands Get Noticed at Royal Show

Visitors to the Falkland Islands stand at this year's Royal Show at Stoneleigh included the only Royal visitor, HRH the Duke of Gloucester, the new Fisheries Minister Ben Bradshaw MP and Shadow DEFRA Minister Bill Wiggin MP.

There were a number of international visitors and guests of the organisers shown to the Falklands stand too, including the Peruvian Ambassador, as the Chief Steward commented it was "a shining example of how an exhibition stand should be."

The four-day event was well attended and staff reported there was a high level of knowledge about and interest in the Falkland Islands. Attending from the Islands was Charlene Rowland of Falkland Islands Development Corporation.



Receiving the Show Certificate of Participation from Mr Ian MacNicol, Chairman of Council, the Royal Show are Falklands team (l to r) Charlene Rowland, FIDC, Sukey Cameron and Debbie Ford, FIGO

Focus on...

Environmental Planning Department

Strategic Development Planning

In line with objectives laid out in The Islands Plan, the focus of the Department's recent work has been to ensure that strategic plans are in place to facilitate the sustainable development of the Islands over the next decade.

The first planning legislation arrived in 1991. The recently published Draft Falkland Islands Development Plan is the next step in providing improved policy direction and impetus to both strategic and local development initiatives. This is timetabled for adoption in early 2004 following a period of public consultation. Visit web pages at www.fidp.horizon.co.fk

The Department works with the Attorney General to update and introduce relevant legislation too. A series of 'planning ordinance' reviews have commenced and new regulations will soon be introduced for Environmental Impact assessment.

National Parks have been proposed for both East and West Falkland in some of its wilder and more attractive land. Following a period of public consultation on the merits of designation, the Government will soon be forming a view on whether to take the proposals forward.

Progress is underway in a wide range of other areas too, such as examining emerging development issues around marine farming, wind energy, future housing provision and a possible new port. Also, responsive to the heritage and traditions of the Islands, the Department has, for instance, helped with the listing of over 50 buildings identified as being of architectural or historical interest.

Planning and Building Control

The Department offers a unique 'one stop shop' service that facilitates joint applications for Planning Permission and Building Permits. This guides rather than controls development to achieve satisfactory resolution of the majority of the 200 or so annual applications within two months.

Some recent applications approved include extensions for the community's Infant and Junior School, the hospital and abattoir.

New housing, sheltered accommodation, commercial and industrial expansion, onshore mineral exploration and extraction of calcified seaweed are just some of the other applications considered in the last two years.

As with planning legislation, the Building Control System is young. Building Regulations are based on local needs and conditions and, while still achieving acceptable standards, are currently being relaxed for certain applications to reflect the individuality of the Islands needs. Further initiatives are planned.

Biodiversity

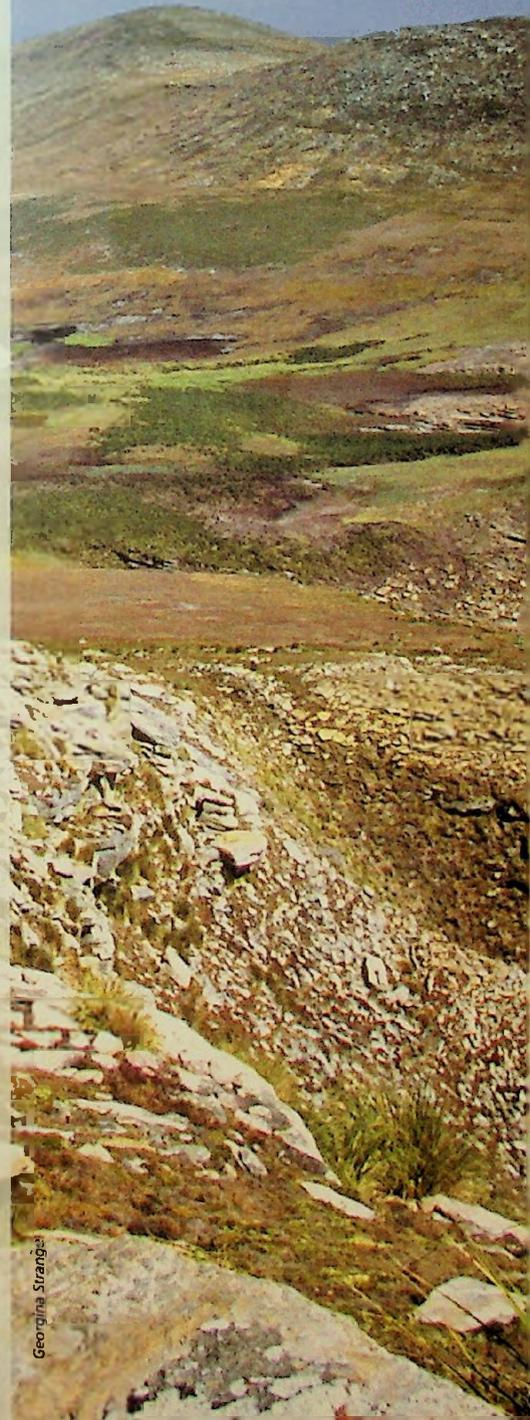
The Islands Plan and the Environment Charter highlight the need for a conservation strategy and a bio-diversity action plan to ensure that the Islands' environment (and the species and habitats it supports) are not compromised by development – and that all activities are undertaken sustainably.

To address these requirements, Andy Douse has been employed to draft the Islands' Conservation Strategy in a two-year project, part-funded by Foreign & Commonwealth office and Falkland Islands Government.

It will focus on sustainable management of resources, both on the land and in the marine environment, as well as developing a biodiversity action plan that will, among other matters, seek to restore or enhance degraded habitats and species, such as Tussac Grass and the endemic Felton's Flower.

"Enable, facilitate and encourage the sustainable development of the Falkland Islands – that's what we do. We do this by working closely with all sectors of the Islands' community, in tandem with other government departments and by advising elected representatives and where necessary the UK government."

Antony Lancaster,
Environmental Planning Officer



Georgina Strange

Successful launch of a new style of photographic book

"Falkland Islands", a new style of photographic book launched successfully in the UK at Falkland House, has met with glowing reviews in The Sunday Times, Wanderlust, BBC Wildlife magazine and Global Traveller. This visual read, created by Swiss photographers Andreas Butz, Lars Boni and Paul Hugentobler, is on sale at Falkland House (RRP£30 + p&p).



At the "Falkland Islands" book launch Sukey Cameron, Representative and its creators (l to r) Lars Boni, Paul Hugentobler and Andreas Butz

Queen's Birthday Honours List

Falkland Islands Government Representative, Miss Sukey Cameron has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The honour has been bestowed during her twentieth year working for Government.



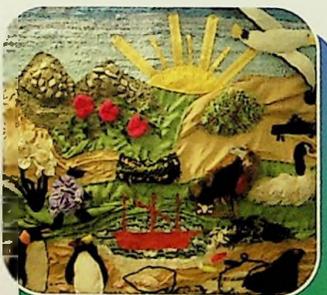
Harriet Hall

The Falkland Islands first female Deputy Governor and First Secretary

The Falkland Islands first female Deputy Governor and First Secretary has taken up post. Harriet Hall has previously worked in the South Atlantic Department and in Beijing. Her most recent post was in the 'counter terrorism' unit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Her role includes responsibilities as Director of Fisheries and Assistant Commissioner to South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. She has replaced Russ Jarvis who has taken up the post of First Secretary in Montserrat.

Golden Tapestry for Commonwealth Project

Pupils at the Infant and Junior School have submitted a tapestry depicting the unique nature and landscape of the Falkland Islands to the Golden Tapestry Commonwealth-wide Project, celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's fifty years as head of the Commonwealth. Over 1,800 primary and special schools across 76 countries are being invited to contribute. The Golden Tapestry collection will be catalogued and displayed in the UK before travelling to Melbourne where it will be exhibited at the Commonwealth Games in 2006.



Picture of the Islands' Golden Tapestry

Golf in the Media

Golf in the Islands has been a big hit with specialist magazines read by golfers and Club Secretaries across Britain. Extensive colour features have appeared in Corporate Golf Magazine (circ. 22,000) and Golf Club Management (circ. 5,000), both of which expressed surprise at the amount of golf played in the Islands and some of the Falklands' quirkier rules.

More Visitors this Cruise Season

The Falkland Islands gears up for a busy cruise season with over 60 visits scheduled by vessels including the QEII and The World of Residensea, billed as the world's most luxurious ship.

'Falklands In Focus' Exhibition

Over 70 invited guests attended the opening reception of the 'Falklands In Focus' exhibition held at the Guille-Allès Library in Guernsey to co-incide with the NatWest Island Games. HE Sir John Foley, Lieutenant Governor of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, performed the opening honours and the event was hosted by Falkland Islands Government.



HE Sir John Foley (centre) with Sukey Cameron and Patrick Watts, Chef de Mission, Falkland Islands Overseas Games Association

Diary Dates....

28 September – 2 October

Labour Party Conference

6 – 9 October

Conservative Party Conference

28 October – 9 November

'Falklands In Focus' photographic exhibition, Edinburgh

5 – 8 February

Destinations 2004, Earls Court



Teeing off on Stanley Golf Course

For further information on any aspect of the Falkland Islands please visit:

➔ www.falklandislands.com

➔ www.falklands.gov.fk



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Falklands Focus

NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 77 APRIL/MAY 2004

Falklands Hosts International Conference

The Falkland Islands branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) hosted a successful 35th British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference from 14 to 21 February. The CPA's mission is to advance parliamentary democracy and deepen the Commonwealth's democratic commitment and to further co-operation among its Parliaments and Legislatures.

The Secretary General of the CPA, Hon. Denis Marshall QSO, along with thirty-nine delegates, officials and spouses from Alderney, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey, Isle of Man, Malta, St Helena, Scotland, Wales and the United Kingdom attended the Conference, which was chaired by Falklands Councillor Richard Cockwell, CPA Executive Committee Senior Regional Representative.

Over three days a variety of issues, pertinent to small countries and Overseas Territories, were discussed including education, tourism, security, the safeguarding of the

environment and good governance. These resulted in lively debate and the sharing of similar experiences and problems.

Exceptionally good weather, stunning scenery and an abundance of wildlife made recreational visits to Goose Green, Darwin and Sea Lion Island most enjoyable. Delegates also experienced the Camp (local term for the countryside) way of life, including traditional sheep farming during a visit to Long Island Farm.

The efforts of conference organisers, Claudette Anderson MBE, Hon. Secretary of the Falkland Islands Branch, and Cherie Clifford, Administrative Officer in the Legislature Department, were rewarded with many compliments and letters of thanks from the visitors, who all left as friends of the Falklands.

The Falkland Islands Government funded all ground arrangements for the conference and the home branches of the CPA funded delegates' travel to the Islands.



Jenny Goddard

CPA Conference delegates and officials in the Islands

Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Wildlife

Environmental and wildlife charity Falklands Conservation celebrates twenty-five years of action in 2004. The Anniversary Year was officially launched by Robert Napier, Chief Executive of the World Wildlife Fund, on 31 January at a reception at Government House, hosted by His Excellency the Governor, Howard Pearce CVO.



Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Wildlife

The Falkland Islands forms a unique bridge between the Antarctic and South American continent and boasts exceptional wildlife. Over the past 25 years Falklands Conservation has worked to protect the natural heritage of the Islands and has conducted valuable research providing crucial information on important species.

The charity's longest running project is the Seabird Monitoring Programme, which studies a number of important colonies on land and their interaction with the fishing industry. More recently it has been working to reduce the mortality of albatross connected to fishing activities.

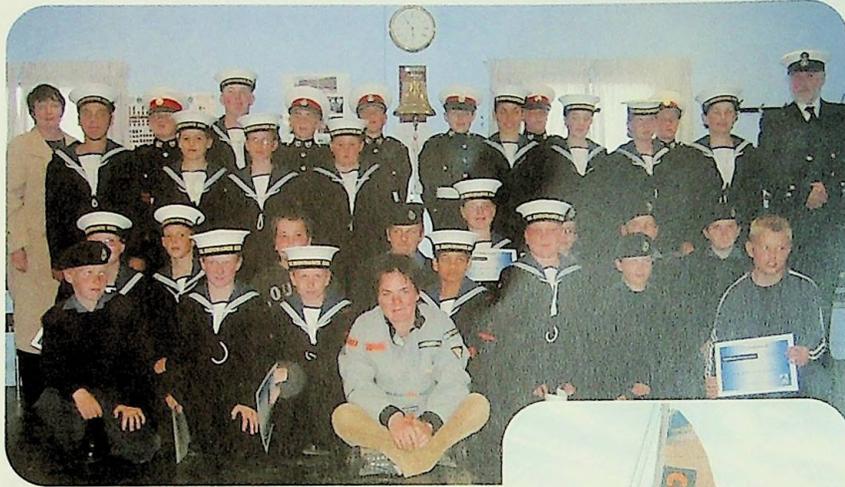
Falklands Conservation is marking its silver anniversary year with a number of special events. A Local Grants Scheme has been launched, designed to support conservation by encouraging landowners, farmers and managers to undertake environmental work ranging from the creation of nature trails and hides to the enhancement of habitats for birds and other wildlife.

To further its educational youth work, the charity has also announced an award for its Junior Watch Group, which has over 40 enthusiastic members aged between 8 and 12.

For more information visit www.falklandsconservation.com

Braving the South Atlantic

In late March Ellen MacArthur set off from the Falkland Islands to sail single-handedly across the Atlantic to the UK in her new yacht, B&Q Kingfisher 2, a 75ft trimaran. During her four days in the Islands, making repairs to her vessel, Ellen experienced typical Falklands hospitality including a reception held in her honour at Government House. Prior to the reception, Ellen presented the Falklands Sea Cadets with sailing certificates.



Ellen MacArthur at the Falklands Sea Cadets presentation ceremony



Ellen's trimaran with Stanley backdrop

Driving Diversification Forward

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) continues to encourage and assist in the economic development of the Falkland Islands.

The Islands' private sector is thriving with local business success stories ranging from the opening of a new language school to the restructuring of the Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCo) to give farmers a greater management role as the 2004 export season gets underway.

The rise of successful craft companies using the Islands' pure wool, which is highly regarded for its colour and superior softness, is fuelled by growing demand from around the world. A&E Knitwear, who launched a new line of machine washable wool last year, attended 'The Knit, Stitch & Creative Crafts Show' in Shepton Mallet in Somerset in April.

FIDC also continues to support farmers branching into tourism, providing even greater access to beauty spots for tourists and an insight into rural Falklands life.

Renewable Energy - A Reality in the Islands

Tim Cotter, FIDC Energy Advisor, has been exploring wind power options for large settlements and farms, following the successful development of small renewable energy systems in the Islands. Well over half the Islands' farms now have 24-hour power from renewable sources and FIDC would like to expand these systems to larger settlements and get some renewable power on the Stanley grid.

For more information please visit www.fidc.co.fk

MPs Call for Resumption of Charter Flights

Nigel Evans MP has tabled a Parliamentary Early Day Motion (EDM) calling for the resumption of charter flights to the Islands following Argentina's decision to suspend permission to use Argentine airspace. The EDM notes the negative impact that the suspension is having on the Falklands tourist industry and has been signed by over 60 MPs.



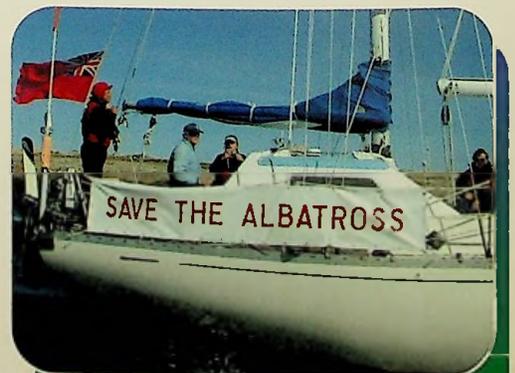
Foreign Office Minister, Bill Rammell MP, visited Argentina from 16 - 17 February to discuss the issue with Argentine Foreign Minister, Dr Rafael Bielsa. Mr Rammell has made it clear that any flight arrangements must be acceptable to Falkland Islanders. Councillors in the Islands are being informed and consulted on the UK Government's exchanges with Argentina.

Plight of the Albatross

In March the 'Save the Albatross' yacht, English Rose VI, arrived in the Falklands under the flag of the United Nations Environment Programme as part of its mission to raise awareness of the plight of the albatross. The crew spent ten days in the Islands following a programme of activity prepared by Falklands Conservation. Skipper, John Ridgeway, praised the Islands' proactive attitude towards conservation and the protection of vulnerable bird species.

Shortly after the visit the Islands adopted a National Plan of Action-Seabirds to reduce incidental catch of seabirds in longline and trawl fisheries. This coincides with the UK's ratification, including the Falkland Islands, of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels.

For more information visit www.savethealbatross.org



Save the Albatross mission arriving in the Falklands

Focus on...

Mineral Resources and Agriculture Departments

On 1 January 2004 the Directorships of Agriculture and Mineral Resources were combined. The aim was to achieve a reduction in public expenditure by improving the efficiency of two crucial Falkland Islands sectors.

Head of Department

Former Director of Mineral Resources, Phyl Rendell, heads up the two departments as Director of Minerals and Agriculture. Mrs Rendell is responsible for policy, administration and financial matters.

Phyl Rendell said: "I am delighted to accept responsibility for directing these departments. The future holds many exciting possibilities for the Falklands' continued development and I will work with my colleagues to maximise our potential for growth and diversification."



Phyl Rendell, Director of Minerals and Agriculture

Major Mineral Resources Projects

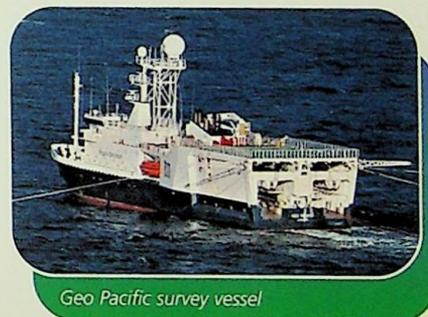
3D Seismic Survey

In February, Desire Petroleum began conducting a 3D seismic survey of its offshore licensed acreage. While the information collated will not signal if oil is present, the 3D data will reveal rock structures that indicate the possible location of oil. The survey will also update present data from 2D to 3D, and greatly enlarge the present 3D data set. Shell conducted a relatively small 3D seismic survey in 1997 covering an area of 306 square kilometres; the new survey will cover an area of 800 square kilometres.

The Departments

The Departments are tasked with improving the performance of agricultural businesses in the Islands and the continued development of mineral exploration programmes. They are dynamic and diverse organisations with 27 employees, who each have their own area of expertise.

The Department of Agriculture plays a pivotal role in the Islands' economy issuing health certificates for the export of animal products, such as fish and wool, which are worth millions of pounds. The Department of Mineral Resources oversees the licensing of offshore oil exploration. During the last exploration phase in 1998 close to £1.3 million was achieved in tax for the Falkland Islands Government and around £10 million flowed through the economy.



Geo Pacific survey vessel

Improving the Performance of Agricultural Businesses

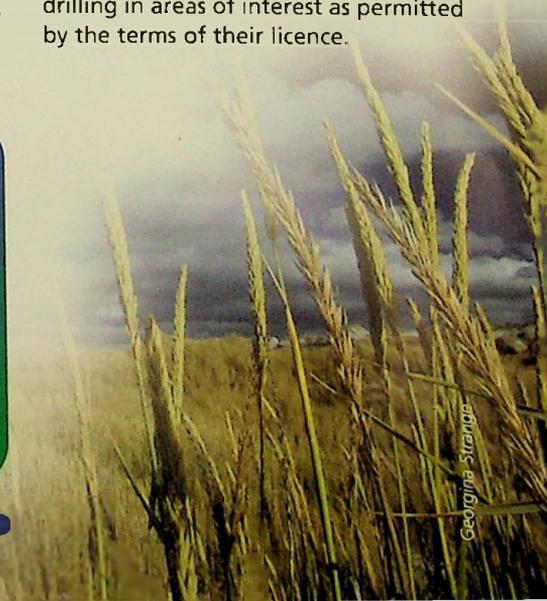
To enhance business skills in the farming sector, agricultural officers have been providing farmers with information and tools to enable them to critically review their own business performance. Participating farmers are using wool benchmarking as a tool in their wool marketing, increasing incomes by up to £4000 per annum. Other advancement programmes include meat production to support the recently constructed EU certified abattoir. AI (artificial insemination) and ET (embryo transplant) programmes in both sheep and cattle have been ongoing for several seasons to improve the quality of farm stock.

Further Exploration Imminent

Falkland Minerals Limited (FML), a newly established Falklands based Joint Venture company, is funding further investigations of the mineral potentials of the Islands. An aeromagnetic survey is now underway and could, if results are positive, be followed by a work plan in 2005 to carry out shallow drilling in areas of interest as permitted by the terms of their licence.



Falklands National Beef Herd



Georgina Strang

Edinburgh Photographic Exhibition

A photographic exhibition displaying amazing wildlife and beautiful scenic shots of today's Falklands was on show at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh from 28 October to 9 November 2003. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, The Right Honourable Lesley Hinds, officially opened the exhibition.

In her speech at the opening, Falkland Islands Government UK Representative, Sukey Cameron, commented on the strong links between Scotland and the Falkland Islands.



Sukey Cameron MBE and Lord Provost Rt Hon Lesley Hinds

Education Update

The latest GCSE results gained by Falklands students delighted teachers at the Community School. Many of the high achievers plan to attend Peter Symonds College in Winchester to study A levels.

Current Falklands students at Peter Symonds featured in a short two-piece documentary on ITV Meridian television in January about leaving the Islands to study in the UK. The students concluded that whilst their experiences were invaluable they were looking forward to returning home to work after completing their studies.

GAP Year Students

Four students have completed successful six-month gap year placements in the Islands, arranged through FIDC and GAP Activity Projects. The students worked on farms and assisted with some of the exciting initiatives to diversify the Islands' agricultural base, including the expansion of the tourism industry.

For more information please visit www.gap.org.uk



Falkland Islands Cricket Team

Cricket Team Tour Chile

The Falkland Islands Cricket team went on its first international tour to Chile in February. The team played its opening match in Santiago under sunny skies, going on to play the Chile League Eleven and 1 Zingari, a British team. Despite losing the matches the players' spirits were not dampened and they took the opportunity to visit Chile's vineyards as well as enjoying a dinner at the British Ambassador's residence.

Top UK media including The Times, The Financial Times, The Daily Telegraph and Cricketworld.com reported on the tour.

Falklands Photographic Book

Award winning photographer and naturalist Kevin Schafer has published a vivid photographic portrait entitled, 'The Falkland Islands, between the Wind and Sea'. His stay in the Islands in 2003 inspired the 96-page book which is on sale at Falkland House, London, at £12.95.

Adrian Monk, OBE

Adrian Monk OBE, the first Falkland Islands UK Government Representative, sadly passed away, aged 85, in March. Mr Monk was appointed to the important office of UK Representative in January 1983, when the post was first created in the aftermath of the 1982 Conflict. He retired in September 1984.

The Falklands - A Destinations Favourite

The Falkland Islands stand was popular amongst visitors to the London travel exhibition, Destinations, which ran from 5-8 February. Visitors received a copy of the Falkland Islands Tourism (FIT) CD-Rom which includes a short video of the stunning landscape and wildlife. Television presenter Ben Fogle visited the stand after giving a presentation about his new book 'The Tea Time Islands', which includes the Falklands.

The 2004 Falkland Islands tourist season ended on a high with a record number of over 30,000 visitors.



Mel McKinley, FIGO, Ben Fogle and Debs Ford, FIT, at Destinations

Diary Dates....

13 May - 2 June

'Falklands In Focus' Exhibition at 'The Deep', Hull

17 June

FIG Annual Reception at Lincoln's Inn, London

4 - 7 July

FIG will have a stand at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

7 July

Annual Local Government Association (LGA) Conference, Bournemouth. FIG Chief Executive is hosting a breakout session on the successful introduction of the EFQM 'Excellence Model' to the Islands' civil service.

For further information on any aspect of the Falkland Islands please visit:

www.falklandislands.com

www.falklands.gov.fk



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Falklands Focus

NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 78 OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2004

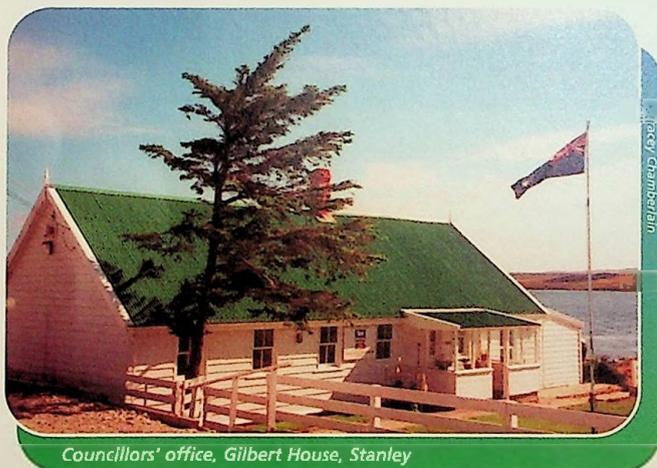
Sovereignty Not Up For Discussion

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) and UK Government remain united in their message that sovereignty is not up for discussion. This is in response to recent attempts by the Argentine Government to force the issue. In November last year the Argentine Government banned charter aircraft from Santiago, Chile, from flying over its territory, impacting on the Islands' tourism industry; April saw the intimidating appearance of the Argentine icebreaker "Almirante Irizar" in the Falkland Islands Conservation Zone; and in August the Argentine Families Commission cancelled its visit to the newly completed Argentine Memorial at the cemetery in Darwin, due to "political implications".

At the United Nations Decolonisation Committee (C24) in New York in June, Councillors Mike Summers and Roger Edwards said that there would be "no negotiations on sovereignty, because negotiation implies a willingness to change or concede, which amongst Falkland Islanders does not exist." They explained that Argentina's stance over the Islands directly challenged the Committee's aim to promote internal self government. Councillor Summers stressed that for decades FIG had run its affairs through democratically elected Government. "We have a modern constitution, with full protection for the rights and freedoms of individuals. . . . to ensure that we continue to have first rate and effective political institutions, a clearly independent judiciary, an efficient public service and that the concept of internal self government is defined and protected," he said.

Councillors made it clear that FIG was committed to co-operating with Argentina in agreed areas of mutual interest, in particular the protection of the region's environment and fish stocks.

Foreign Secretary, Rt. Hon. Jack Straw MP, and his Argentine counterpart, Rafael Bielsa, met in September at the UN General Assembly meeting. Before the meeting His Excellency The Governor, Mr Howard Pearce CVO, stressed that the British Government was "firmly committed to respecting the wishes of the Falkland Islanders and the principle of self-determination".



Councillors' office, Gilbert House, Stanley

Falkland Fisheries Weathers the Storm

The fishing industry experienced a difficult year with commercial catches of Illex squid the lowest on record. This resulted in the early closure of the season. Scientific evidence points to oceanographic and climatic factors causing adverse conditions for the fishery. FIG has refunded licence holders and it is hoped that this policy, combined with a return to normal fishing stocks, will encourage fishing companies to return next season. This has impacted on the local economy and adjustments have been required in public expenditure in the short term.



Russell Evans

A new book, "The Future of the Falkland Islands and its People," written by Bulgarian academic, Dr. Lyubomir Ivanov, assesses the current state of political development in the Islands and the options open to Islanders. Professor Carlos Escudé, from the Argentine National Council of Scientific Research, contributed a paper entitled "The Falklands will never be Argentine." Free copies are available on request from Falkland House, London. Email admin@falklands.gov.fk or call 020 7222 2542.

Chief Executive At LGA Conference

FIG Chief Executive, Chris Simpkins, hosted a breakout session at the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference in Bournemouth on 7 July. The session, entitled "Excellent Service Delivery – the Falklands Experience", attracted over fifty delegates and was full to capacity. The presentation demonstrated FIG's forward looking approach and commitment to public sector improvement. A wide-ranging Q&A session followed which provided further insight

into the governance of the Islands. National and leading trade media reported on the session. Articles appeared in *The Guardian* and the *Municipal Journal*.



Chief Executive Chris Simpkins addressing the LGA conference

Northcliffe Press

Aquaculture Mission to UK

A Falkland Islands fact-finding delegation, including the Director of Fisheries, John Barton, and the General Manager of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC), Julian Morris, visited the UK and Ireland in May to investigate the potential of developing an aquaculture industry in the Islands. The group visited seafood processing plants and fish farms. An aquaculture feasibility study covering site appraisal, processing, marketing and shipping is now being prepared.



The aquaculture delegation, from left to right: David Scott, Aquaculture Consultant, Julian Morris, General Manager FIDC, Jim McLachlan, Xplora, John Barton, Director of Fisheries, Stuart Wallace, Fortuna, Simon Hardcastle, Falklands Fresh and Hamish Wylie of Seafish

Fortuna Ltd

Brussels Seafood Fair

Several Falkland Islands fishing companies joined together to host a stand at the Brussels Seafood Fair in May, attracting a record number of visitors. Companies from all over the world made enquiries about the species of fish available and possible investment opportunities.

Successful Young Islanders

The success of today's modern Falklands is not least due to the positive contributions of a new generation of Islanders. Academic achievements, including this year's A-Level and G.C.S.E results, have been high. Many of this year's graduates are planning to gain further experience in the UK before choosing to return to the Islands to pursue career opportunities.

On the sporting front, the Falkland Islands have been invited, for the first time, to participate in the Commonwealth Youth Games in Bendigo, Australia, this November. Six young athletes have been selected to compete in swimming and track events.

Many young Islanders are also aware of the need to protect and conserve their environment and wildlife. Following the success of the Falklands Conservation Junior Watch Group for 7 to 11 year olds, a new group for 14 to 18 year olds is being set up.



Falklands Conservation Junior Watch Group

Penguin News

New Head of Public Works

Falkland Islander Manfred Keenleyside has been appointed Director of the Public Works Department (PWD), the largest Falkland Islands Government department. Mr Keenleyside previously held the post of Deputy Director, which has now been removed, and is one of PWD's longest serving employees. The department has approximately 150 employees and is responsible for municipal services and construction projects, including road building.



Manfred Keenleyside, Director of Public Works

Penguin News

Councillor Roger Edwards, who holds the portfolio for the department, said: "I am delighted that Manfred will be at the helm of the PWD. He will ensure that it continues to work towards the provision of a high-quality infrastructure to support the development of the Islands."

New Legal Appointments

Two new senior legal appointments have been made to the judiciary services. Clare Faulds, from the Isle of Man, is the new Senior Magistrate and Melanie Chilton, from Bedfordshire, has been appointed Principal Crown Counsel. They take up their positions in September and October respectively.

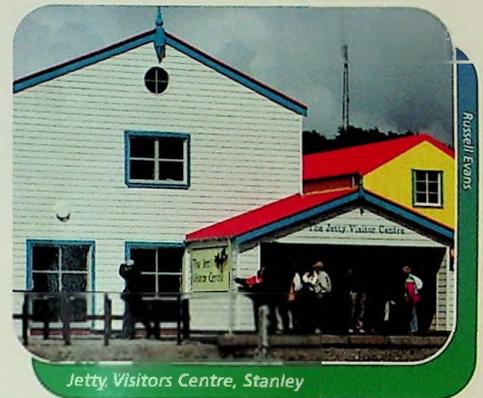
Focus on . . .

Falkland Islands Tourist Board (FITB)

The Falklands Islands has unspoilt, beautiful scenery, clean air, amazing wildlife and a host of exciting and unusual activities to enjoy, which is why more and more travellers are finding their way to its shores. This has meant that tourism is now the country's fastest growing industry.



In July, Connie Stevens became the new Director of Tourism. She joined from the Falkland Islands Development Corporation where she was the Marketing Manager. "I see exciting times ahead for tourism" she said, "we live in a truly amazing place that we want to share and, of course, protect for future generations."



Top Attractions

The spectacular and abundant wildlife (there are over 70 different breeding species including five species of penguin) is only one aspect of the Islands' rich attractions. Outdoor pursuits range from off-road driving to wreck diving. Unpolluted streams and rivers offer plentiful fishing for Sea Trout or Falklands Mullet. Stanley, the capital of the Islands, has a charm of its own and its interesting museum and craft shops should not be missed. FITB is also working to develop new tourist destinations, tours and excursions including working with the farming community to diversify into tourism. As well as accommodation many farms now offer horse trekking, beach walks and overland wildlife excursions.

The Essentials

Accommodation ranges from homely guesthouses and wildlife lodges to self-catering cottages. There are also two good hotels in Stanley. A warm welcome is guaranteed and don't forget to try the local delicacies including Upland Goose pate, Diddledee berry jam and the delicious lamb, mutton, beef and freshly caught fish. Travelling around is also simple. FIGAS, the domestic airline, has regular services to places of interest. Off-road driving is an option too or, for those who prefer a more sedate pace, there is a growing network of roads.

How To Get There

Travel to the Islands from the UK has never been easier:

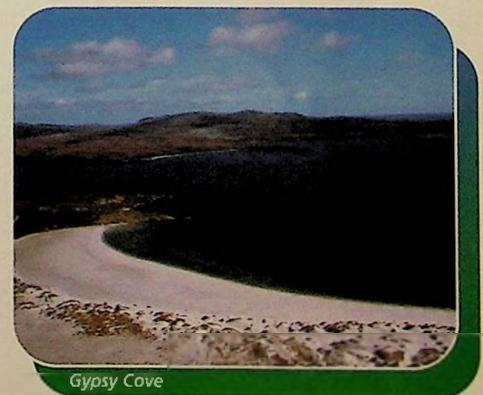
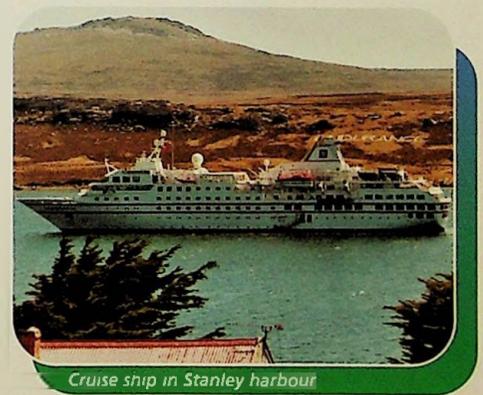
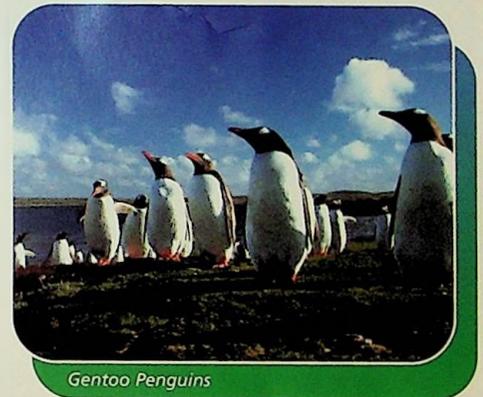
- There is a weekly LAN flight to the Islands from Santiago in Chile. Visit www.lan.com
- A six times a month RAF service flies from RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. Bookings can be made via the Travel Co-ordinator, Falkland Islands Government Office, London.

T: 020 7222 2542 or email travel@falklands.gov.fk

For more information on tourism please visit: www.tourism.org.fk

Tourism Facts

- The main tourist season runs from October to April
- The Falkland Islands enjoy more sunshine hours than the south of England
- Between 30,000 and 40,000 tourists visit each year
- Cruise ship visitors, on Antarctic cruises, make up the majority of the tourists. Over 130 ships will visit the Islands this season
- The Islands also receive land-based tourists, many of whom are ornithologists, photographers, fishermen and general wildlife enthusiasts



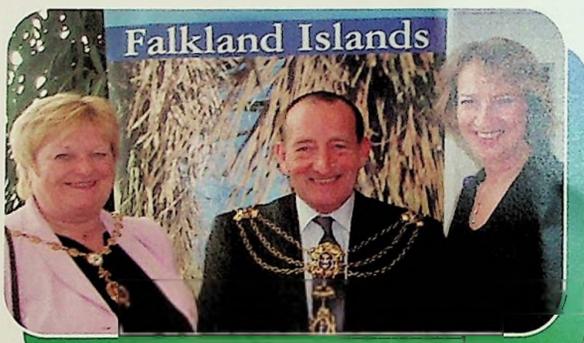
NEWS IN BRIEF

Armed Forces Minister at Annual Reception

Over two hundred guests attended the 30th Falkland Islands Government Annual Reception at Lincoln's Inn, London, on 17 June. Rt. Hon. Adam Ingram MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces and Rt. Hon. Michael Ancram MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary, were among the guests as well as Falklands students, visiting Islanders, former Governors, Chief Executives and Commanders of British Forces and members of UK-based Falkland Islands groups. Representatives from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence were also present. All those in attendance were united in their support of the Falklands. In her speech Sukey Cameron MBE, Falkland Islands Government UK Representative, outlined some of the Islands' recent challenges and success stories and noted the robust support the Falklands continue to enjoy from the UK Government.



Sukey Cameron and Rt. Hon. Adam Ingram MP at Reception



Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress with Sukey Cameron

Falklands in Focus Photographic Exhibition in Hull

A stunning photographic exhibition of the Falkland Islands and its marine life was on display at The Deep, the world's only submerium, in Hull from 13 May to 2 June. The Lord Mayor of Kingston-upon-Hull, Councillor Ken Branson, officially opened the exhibition, which also featured information on Falklands Conservation. Interviewed by BBC Radio Humberside at the opening, Falkland Islands Government UK Representative Sukey Cameron MBE said that the beauty and diversity of the Islands, portrayed by the images, would capture the imagination of visitors.

Islands Welcome Visitors at Royal Show

The Falklands once again proved a popular attraction at the Royal Show from 4-7 July. Falkland Islands Government UK Representative Sukey Cameron MBE and Councillor Ian Hansen represented the Islands. HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Conservative Party Leader Rt. Hon. Michael Howard QC MP and television presenter Ben Fogle were amongst the many visitors welcomed to the stand. The show provided an excellent opportunity to communicate Falklands news and developments to a wide audience.

New Mineral Resources Website

The Department of Mineral Resources has launched a new website, www.falklands-oil.com, giving detailed information on oil and mineral exploration in the Islands.

Tribute to Harold Rowlands CBE

Harold Rowlands CBE, former Falkland Islands Government Financial Secretary, sadly passed away in April. Mr Rowlands played an active role in Falklands politics for over forty years and will be remembered not least for his continuous hospitality to British Forces Port Squadron following the War in 1982.

Diary Dates

On show at Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London:

7 September – 31 December

Local artist James Peck's atmospheric paintings

January – March 2005

Shackleton Scholarship Fund's 10th Anniversary exhibition

5 March – 30 June 2005

Showcase by photographer David Osborn

For further information about these events contact admin@falklands.gov.fk

Other dates:

12 – 19 February 2005

Red Ensign Shipping Conference, Falkland Islands

For further information on any aspect of the Falkland Islands please visit:

➤ www.falklandislands.com

➤ www.falklands.gov.fk



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Falklands Focus

NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 79 APRIL / MAY 2005

Welcome!

The Falkland Islands has played host to a number of important visitors over the past six months.

Parliamentarians

In November, British Parliamentarians Vera Baird MP, Alun Cairns Welsh Assembly Member, Alan Campbell MP and Dari Taylor MP visited the Falklands. Accompanied by Sukey Cameron MBE, the Falkland Islands Government UK Representative, their packed itinerary included meetings with Councillors, officials and the Governor. The visitors said that Islanders must meet challenges from Argentina head on and thanked them for the warm hospitality they received. They were also impressed by the Islands' magnificent wildlife.



(Left - Right) Vera Baird MP, Alun Cairns AM, Dari Taylor MP, Alan Campbell MP

Four Canadian Parliamentarians arrived in the Islands in January to learn more about Falkland issues and to explore areas of mutual interest including trade and tourism. The delegation was impressed by the economic potential of the Falklands. They were also sympathetic to the political situation the Islands face saying: "Canada can be well-positioned to be a champion of the very important acknowledgement of the Falkland Islands right to self-determination".

Maritime Conference

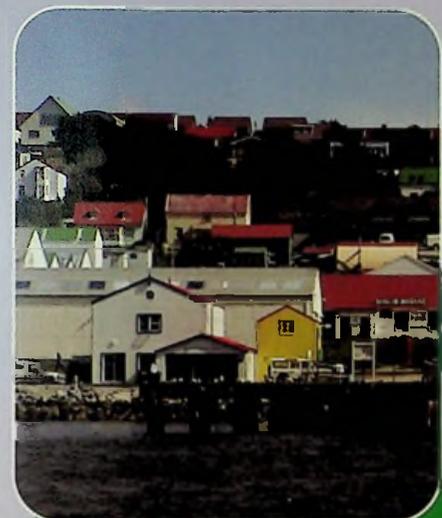
In February, the Islands hosted the annual Red Ensign Conference. Over twenty delegates attended, representing eleven UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies whose shipping registers are subject to the regulations of the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). Topics discussed included maritime safety, new shipping legislation and environmental issues. For more information visit: www.redensigngroup.org

Cruise Ships

Over 75 cruise ships carrying approximately 40,000 passengers have visited the Islands, including the Queen Elizabeth II in late November. In February, around 1,000 passengers and crew from the *MV Amsterdam* experienced the true meaning of Falklands hospitality when Stanley residents opened-up their homes overnight after the visitors were left stranded ashore due to strong winds. Guests expressed their wish to reciprocate the kind hospitality received.

Falkland Islanders Reach Out

The devastating effects of Hurricane Ivan in Grenada and the tsunami in Asia struck a chord with Falkland Islanders who quickly sought to help.



Stanley, the capital of the Islands

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan, the Islands recognised the need of a fellow small Commonwealth country and donated its full international Disaster Relief budget of £5,000. The Grenada Ministry of Education identified the Community Library in St John's Parish for restoration.

Falkland Islanders have contributed over £28,000 to the Disaster Emergency Committee's Tsunami Earthquake Appeal, equating to £12 per capita. The Falklands' response is typical of its generous aid to many causes internationally.

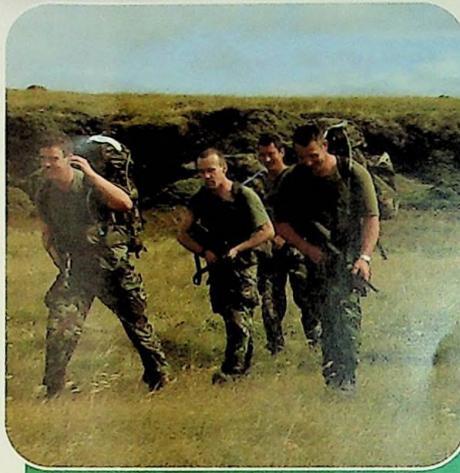


QE2 in Port William

Anniversaries

The Falkland Islands Defence Force

The Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) celebrated 150 years of voluntary military service in November. The first volunteer force was created in 1845 in response to possible aggression from Russia during the Crimean War. The force has been remodelled and mobilised at various points since then, including in 1982. Today the FIDF is entirely funded by the Falkland Islands Government and follows British Army doctrine in training and operations. The FIDF is company strength and often beats the British Army in the annual March and Shoot competition.



Falkland Islands Defence Force in action

Mount Pleasant Airport

Mount Pleasant Airport (MPA) will celebrate its 20th anniversary on 12 May. Twenty years ago HRH Prince Andrew officially opened the airport and the military garrison began their move from Stanley to Mount Pleasant. Today the whole garrison is based there. The building of the airport was a major engineering feat and took 80 weeks to complete.

Anniversary Committee

Preparations have begun to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 1982 Conflict in 2007. The Islands' 25th Anniversary Committee and Her Majesty's Government are working on plans for commemorations both in the Islands and in the UK.



(Left - Right) Dr. Klaus Dodds, Rt Hon the Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, Sukey Cameron MBE

Shackleton Scholarship Fund

The Shackleton Scholarship Fund (SSF) marked its 10th anniversary in February with a reception at Falkland House, London. Baroness Thatcher was guest of honour and guests enjoyed a private viewing of pictures taken in the Islands in 1969 by the late Sven Gillsater, a professional Swedish photographer. The collection of photographs was reproduced thanks to a grant from the SSF and can be viewed at www.gillsaterphoto.com

The SSF was set up to commemorate the lives of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his son, Lord Edward (Eddie) Shackleton. It offers scholarships for individuals to visit the Islands for research purposes or to promote new skills and activities. For more information visit: www.shackletonfund.com

Sporting Edge

The Islands continue to demonstrate their sporting enthusiasm both at home and overseas. In November, the Falklands were represented for the first time at the Commonwealth Youth Games by a team of four athletes. The team all achieved personal records at the Games, which were held in Bendigo, Australia.

On the domestic front, the second Annual Sailing Regatta took place in February, with competitors inspired by Dame Ellen MacArthur's record breaking exploits. Falklands Councillors sent their congratulations on behalf of Islanders to Dame Ellen on her 'awe-inspiring' achievement. Dame Ellen visited the Islands in March 2004 and shared her passion for sailing with the local community and the Falklands Sea Cadets.

The first full marathon to be held in the Islands took place in March. Just under 100 people, including six overseas visitors, entered the event which was sponsored by the Standard Chartered Bank. Organisers hope it will become a regular fixture on the Islands' sporting calendar.

New Faces

Falklands Conservation, the wildlife and environmental charity, has welcomed Henry Robinson as its new UK Chairman. Mr Robinson became a UK Trustee of the charity in 2003 following regular visits to the Islands. Grant Munro has been newly appointed as Director of Falklands Conservation in Stanley.

Sir Rex Hunt CMG, former Falkland Islands Governor (1980 - 1985), has been succeeded as Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association (FIA) by another former Governor, Mr David Tatham CMG (1992-1995). Sir Rex will continue to play a significant role in the FIA as a Vice-President and has appealed for more people to join the organisation as it continues to pledge its support for the Islands' right to self-determination.

Focus on...

Port Development

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) is looking to develop its port facilities to become a significant port in the South Atlantic. In the long term it is likely that the Falklands Interim Port and Storage System (FIPASS) in Stanley Harbour, completed in 1984, will be replaced.

The Opportunities

Independent studies have found that additional maritime port facilities could generate considerable economic benefits for the Islands. Port development would allow the Falklands to provide a range of important maritime services to vessels operating in the South Atlantic including:

- *The provisioning of cruise ships and trawlers*
- *The services of an emergency and support centre for repairs and medical cases*
- *Crew change*

It would also enable the Islands to become part of the regional and worldwide container services network, thus helping to raise its profile as a significant fisheries port.

Establishing a Port Authority

The creation of a Port Authority as a legal entity in 2006 is being examined. It will facilitate and manage the development of commercial port infrastructure and will be responsible for:

- *Maintaining port facilities*
- *Investing in and developing new facilities*
- *Diversifying its investments and sources of income to support and strengthen core facilities*
- *Attracting new business*
- *Maximising quality and value for money in all its services*

In the interim the FIG will carry out essential maintenance and repairs to FIPASS which will lead to its phased replacement and the extension of current port services. The management contract for FIPASS is also currently being retendered.

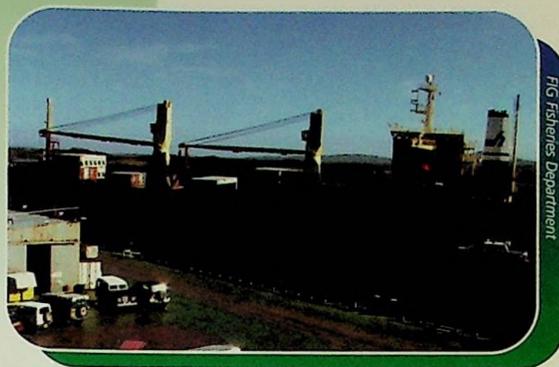


FIG Fisheries Department



Russell Evans



FIG Fisheries Department

Director of Port Operations

As a precursor to the establishment of a Port Authority, the FIG is considering the appointment of a Director of Port Operations (DPO). The Director will produce a three year business plan for port development. The position will be funded by money from the European Commission.

FIG Chief Executive Chris Simpkins said: "This is a very exciting time as the Islands continue to look at ways to expand and diversify its economy. The fisheries industry is currently the mainstay of the Islands' economy but with recent disappointing catch levels of the Illex squid we cannot rely solely on the sale of fishing licences. As interest in the Islands for oil and minerals exploration grows, it is right that we should invest in improved and modern port facilities so that we may benefit fully from any discoveries made and create the opportunity to add value to fishing activities."

Falklands Symphony

After months of fundraising, Shirley Adams-Leach, music teacher at the Community School, welcomed composers Craig Vear and Dr. Jonathan Eato to the Islands to work with her students to create an exciting new composition, *The Falklands Suite*. A CD will be produced of the composition.



Students with composers Craig Vear and Dr. Jonathan Eato

Oil & Minerals: New Activity

Falklands Gold and Minerals Ltd commenced drilling for minerals at the end of February. It is exploring a target thought to be an epithermal gold anomaly. A sample treatment and project facility has been established at Goose Green to support the exploration programme.

The seismic vessel GSI Admiral has begun the second phase of a 2D seismic survey in an area to the north east of the Islands, licensed to Falkland Islands Oil and Gas Ltd. In total, over £50 million has been raised to explore for minerals onshore and hydrocarbons around the Falkland Islands. Desire Petroleum PLC has also announced its intention to drill three wells in the North Falkland basin, about 100 miles north of the Islands, in the coming year.

Governor's Wedding

On 21 October 2004, His Excellency the Governor Howard Pearce CVO, married his Dutch fiancée Caroline Thomée in Christ Church Cathedral, Stanley. This is the first time that a Falklands Governor has married in the Islands and the couple celebrated with the local community. Children were given the day off school and the wedding service was relayed on loudspeakers outside the Cathedral. Local residents together with friends and family, who had travelled to the Falklands, enjoyed a reception at the Town Hall.



H.E. The Governor and Mrs Pearce

Top Travel Exhibition

The Falkland Islands Tourist Board was at 'Destinations 2005' in February with its largest ever stand. World renowned professional wildlife photographer Andy Rouse, a recent visitor to the Islands, was on the stand and unveiled his striking new images of the Falklands.

New Visitor Attractions

Cartmell Cottage, one of the first residential properties built in Stanley in 1849, has been restored by The Falkland Islands Museum & National Trust. Each room reflects a different era to illustrate how domestic life has changed since the mid 1800s. In February *Country Life* magazine featured the cottage's remarkable transformation.

Lonely Planet Guide

After years of featuring in the guides to South America, Argentina and Chile, Lonely Planet has brought out a guide devoted to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. The guide costs £18.99.

Fisheries: Variable Results

Despite modest catches of *Loligo* squid in 2004, good prices resulted in a reasonable outcome for Falkland Islands joint venture companies.

It could be another difficult year for the *Illex* squid fishery. The 2005 season has only recently opened in Falklands zones but the results from a joint survey indicate a low biomass and it is likely that the season will be closed early to conserve the fishery. The survey involved scientists from Argentina and the Falklands working on an Argentine research vessel throughout February.

Diary Dates....

Photographic Exhibition

David Osborn Photographic Exhibition at Falkland House, London, 15 March - 30 June 2005

Annual Reception

Annual Reception at Lincoln's Inn, London, 8 June 2005

Royal Show

Royal Show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, 3 - 6 July 2005

For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

➤ www.falklandislands.com

➤ www.falklands.gov.fk

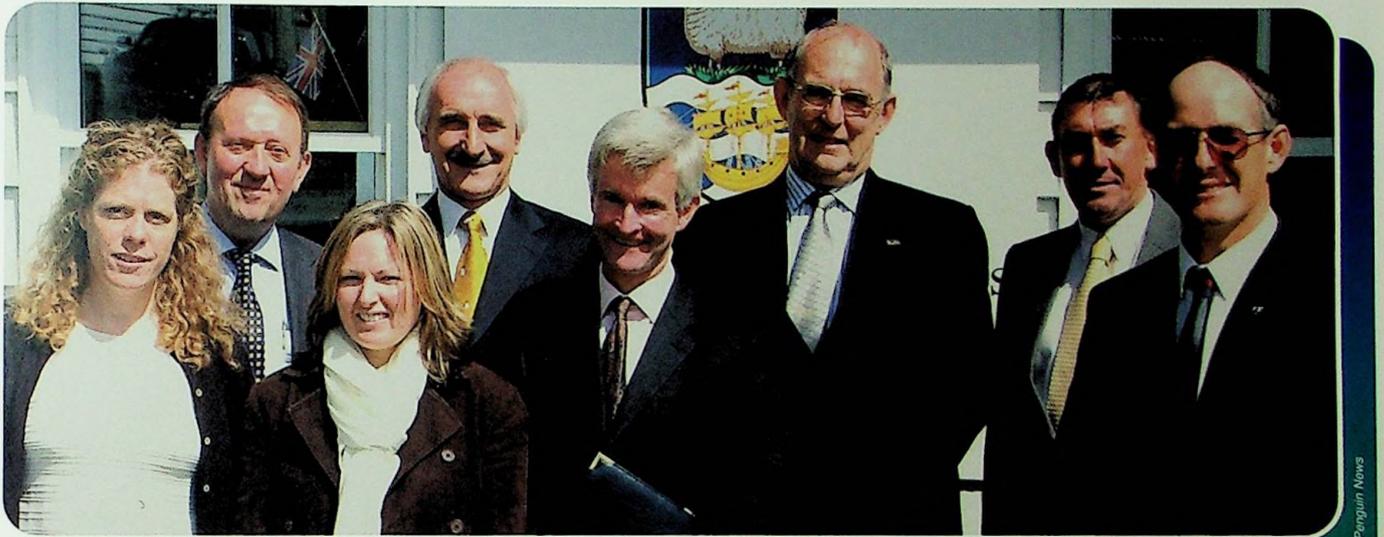


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NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 80 FEBRUARY 2006

New Faces on Council



Penguin News

Successful candidates at the 2005 General Election (L-R): Ms Janet Robertson, Mr Mike Rendell, Dr Andrea Clausen, Mr Mike Summers OBE, Dr Richard Davies, Mr Richard Cockwell, Mr Ian Hansen and Mr Richard Stevens.

Five new Councillors were elected to the Falkland Islands Government Legislative Council (LegCo) at the 2005 General Election on 17 November. Three members from the previous LegCo retained their seats.

Five new Councillors were elected for the first time to the Camp constituency. Mr Ian Hansen retained his seat in Camp and Mr Richard Stevens serves on LegCo for a second time for the Camp constituency, having previously served from 1993 to 1997.

Under the Islands' Constitution, eight Councillors are elected every four years to represent two constituencies. The capital Stanley is represented by five Councillors. Three Councillors represent the constituency known as Camp, the local term for the countryside. Voter turnout in Camp was 86% compared to 82.2% at the 2001 General Election. Turnout in Stanley was also slightly up.

Each year LegCo elects three members to serve on the Executive Council (ExCo), which considers policy matters. Councillors Summers, Hansen and Clausen were elected to the first ExCo. Former Councillor Mr Lewis Clifton OBE was appointed Speaker of LegCo.

Successful candidates in Stanley included first-time Councillors Dr Andrea Clausen, Dr Richard Davies and Ms Janet Robertson. Mr Richard Cockwell and Mr Mike Summers OBE were re-elected. Mr Mike Rendell was

The Falkland Islands Government has begun preparations to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Islands' liberation in 2007. There will be a national commemoration in the UK on 17 June 2007.

Future Blueprint

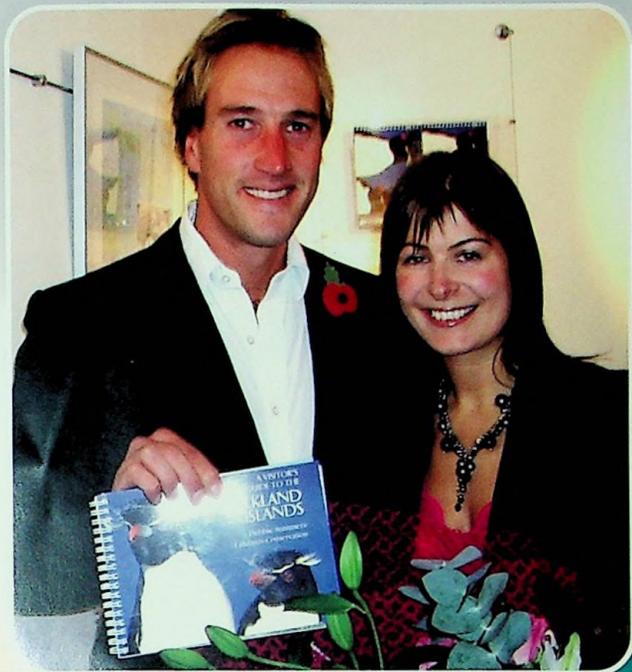


Brian Donohoe, MP

Stanley is the beautiful and burgeoning capital of the Islands.

The Falkland Islands Government has published a new Islands Plan to protect and improve quality of life. It includes targets to measure the progress of Government departments up to the end of 2007.

Sustainable Tourism



Ben Fogle and author Debbie Summers launch the new Visitor's Guide

Environmental charity Falklands Conservation has launched an expanded edition of the popular 'Visitor's Guide to the Falkland Islands'.

TV presenter Ben Fogle, guest of honour at the launch, in November, praised the guide which supports the development of environmentally responsible tourism. The event was attended by travel representatives, journalists, MPs and supporters of the charity. BBC World TV filmed a feature on sustainable tourism, interviewing author and Islander Debbie Summers and Ann Brown, UK Executive Officer and Company Secretary, Falklands Conservation.

Debbie Summers said: "The Islands' tourist industry is conscious of the need to protect our natural heritage and works together with Falklands Conservation to achieve this."

Tourism continues to be the fastest growing industry in the Islands, which expect to welcome up to 60,000 visitors this tourist season, mostly from cruise ships en route to Antarctica.

The guide costs £12.50 and is available from Falklands Conservation.

For more information visit: www.falklandsconservation.com

Stamp of Quality

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation has developed a mark of origin for use on Falklands products and by services. Companies adopting the logo will sign up to a charter guaranteeing that goods are of



FALKLAND ISLANDS

Falklands origin as well as of the highest quality. The mark will enable users to capitalise on growing awareness of the Falklands as a producer of quality wool, food and other goods.

Economy Update

Mineral Resources

The number of licenses awarded to oil and mineral exploration companies has more than doubled in the past year. The Government is closely monitoring the development of Environmental Impact Assessments which must be prepared in advance of drilling activity. It has suspended its open door licensing policy to allow a period of consolidation. Drilling is expected in licensed acreage in the North Falkland basin this year and to the north east of the Islands in 2007.

For more information visit: www.falklands-oil.com

Fisheries

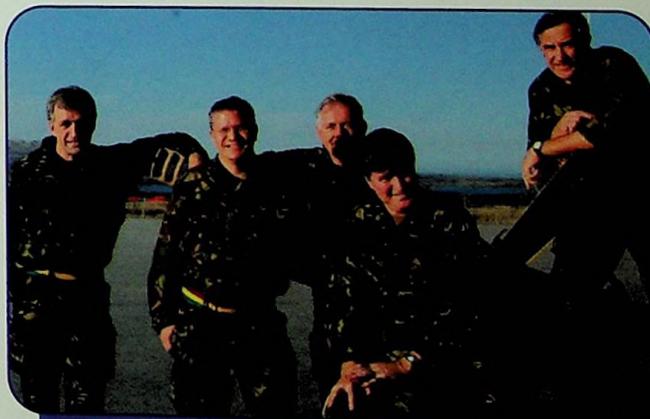
A Fisheries Conservation and Management Bill, designed to stimulate the modernisation of the fishing industry and promote economic growth, will come into effect in July.

Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) is pleased with trials to develop dual-purpose sheep breeds that produce quality wool and better meat. Sheep farming makes up 95% of the Islands' agricultural activity. The DOA is working to a ten year business plan on the future of farming in the Falklands to ensure that the Islands' 88 farms run profitably.



How Griston



Penguin News

A group of parliamentarians visited the Falklands in November as part of the RAF Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme to gain experience of both the Islands and the armed forces. The group unanimously agreed that the funding for the defence of the Falklands is well spent. Pictured L-R: Richard Ashworth MEP, Andrew Rosindell MP, Peter Bottomley MP, Brian Donohoe MP, Gerald Howarth MP.

Focus on...

Health Services

Falkland Islanders enjoy an excellent standard of healthcare provision funded by the Falkland Islands Government.

Modern Medical Facilities

The modern King Edward VII Memorial Hospital (KEMH) in Stanley was upgraded in 2005. The hospital provides medical assistance to the 2,400 strong local population and when required to military personnel and support staff based at Mount Pleasant, seaman from vessels licensed to fish in the Islands' waters and tourists.

The hospital has 27 beds including two intensive care, one maternity, one isolation and seven long term nursing care beds. The latter were built as part of the new development as the Falklands had no nursing or care homes. Long-term nursing care patients can now be accommodated in rooms with ensuite facilities.

Expertise

A resident consultant general surgeon, an anaesthetist, professional social workers, a mental health nurse, a speech and language therapist and a physiotherapist complement the work of five doctors who provide a general practice service to residents in Stanley. Outlying settlements benefit from a flying doctor service and regular clinics in larger farm settlements. A dental service is provided by two dentists in Stanley.

Other specialists such as gynaecologists, orthopaedic surgeons and ENT surgeons visit the Islands on an annual or biennial basis to see and treat referred patients. KEMH has a contract with Southampton University Hospital Trust for radiography support.

Overseas Treatment

When patients require investigation or treatment that cannot be provided in the Islands, the Royal Air Force provides an aeromedical service to Montevideo, Uruguay, or a private Chilean aeromedical service takes patients to Santiago. Around 12 patients per month are sent overseas on a planned basis for treatment in Chile or the UK.



The BBC programme *Ground Force* visited in 2002 to transform the hospital garden.



Nikki Osborne, Director of Health Services

affluence. We are developing more preventative services in response to this. For example, we have introduced nurse-led clinics for asthma, diabetes and coronary heart disease and offer smoking cessation, alcohol counselling and weight loss advisory services.

"The department is dedicated to providing the Falklands with the very best in healthcare provision," said Nikki Osborne, Director of Health Services. "Health problems in the Islands are similar to the UK, namely a rising elderly population and a growing burden of diseases of

"It is great to be working within such excellent facilities and I am enjoying the opportunities presented by my new role."

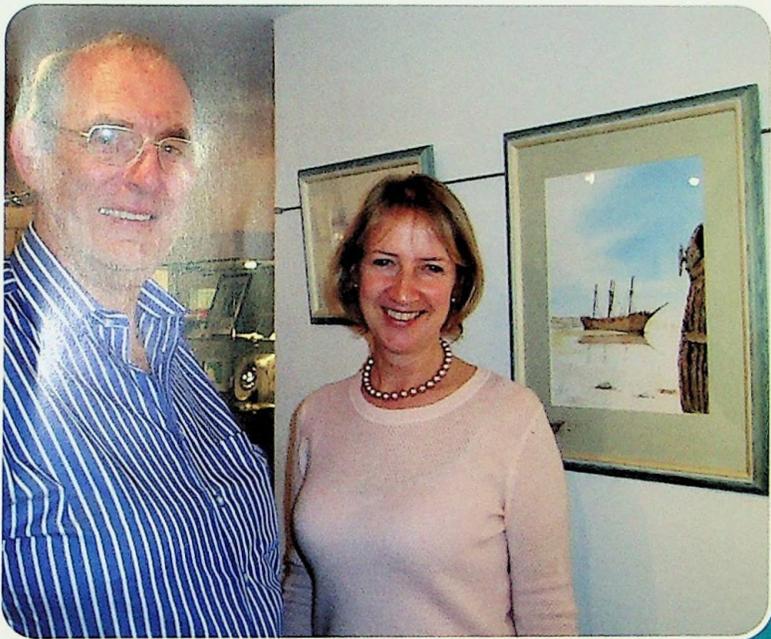
Nikki Osborne, former Head of Cheshire West Primary Care Trust, took up her position in June 2005.

Falklands Prepare For Commonwealth Games

The symbolic Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton travelled the Falklands for five days in August 2005 as part of its relay around the 71 nations participating in the 2006 Commonwealth Games. Local residents carried the Baton by land, sea and air. A team from the Falklands will be competing in the Games which will take place in Melbourne from 15 to 26 March.



Copyright M 2005



Beautiful watercolour paintings of the Falklands by Councillor Richard Cockwell, pictured with Sukey Cameron MBE, Falkland Islands Government UK Representative, are on display at Falkland House until March.

• Festival of Remembrance

Falkland Islander Lisa Johnston was interviewed by the BBC at the liberation themed Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on 12 November. Veterans from the South Atlantic Medal Association joined in the march past of the Cenotaph in Whitehall the following day.

The Foreign Secretary laid a wreath on behalf of the Overseas Territories. The wreath is unmistakable amongst all the others as it does not contain a single red poppy. Instead, it is traditionally made from a representative selection of plants endemic to the Territories. The Falklands are represented by the diddledee plant.

• Trafalgar Day Celebrations

Falklands Sea Cadets acted as wreath bearers to His Royal Highness the Duke of York in the bicentenary Trafalgar Day Parade in October. In the Falklands, 140 guests enjoyed a Trafalgar Dinner which closely followed Naval Trafalgar traditions.

• Mobile Phones Ring in Stanley

A mobile phone service has been launched in Stanley and is already fully subscribed.

Diary Dates

- A group of British MPs are visiting the Falklands on a fact-finding mission from **14-22 February**
- The Islands are hosting an Albatross and Petrel Seminar in **March**, organised by Falklands Conservation, to raise awareness of the plight of the endangered albatross. Dame Ellen MacArthur visited the Falklands in December en route to South Georgia, where she assisted with a Wandering Albatross Census.

For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

www.falklandislands.com
www.falklands.gov.fk



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NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 81
JULY / AUGUST 2007

Opportunities for the Future

The Falkland Islands' thriving economy was put under the spotlight at a one-day business forum, hosted by the Falklands Islands Government (FIG), on 18 April 2007 at the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster, London.

The Falklands Forum - 'Opportunities for the Future' was held in the 25th Anniversary year of the Falklands Conflict to demonstrate how the Islands have developed into an economically self-sustaining community.

Around 200 delegates, including representatives from the international business community, politicians, academics and the media, listened to presentations on the Islands' vibrant economy and opportunities for investment in key industries including oil and minerals, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture and agriculture.

BBC broadcaster, Nicholas Owen, chaired the event and speakers included Foreign and Commonwealth Minister Dr Kim Howells MP, FIG representatives and private sector companies. FIG Chief Executive, Chris Simpkins, presented an economic overview of the Falklands, whilst Councillors outlined the Islands' constitutional development as well as improvements to infrastructure.

Cheryl Roberts, Chair of Consolidated Fisheries Ltd, and Lewis Clifton OBE, Managing Director of Byron Marine Ltd, who sponsored industry sessions on fishing and oil and minerals, provided fascinating insights into the operation of successful businesses in the Islands. Over 15 private companies, both local and international, sponsored the Forum. An eye-catching exhibition profiled businesses as well as Falklands' organisations.



Forum Chair, Broadcaster Nicholas Owen

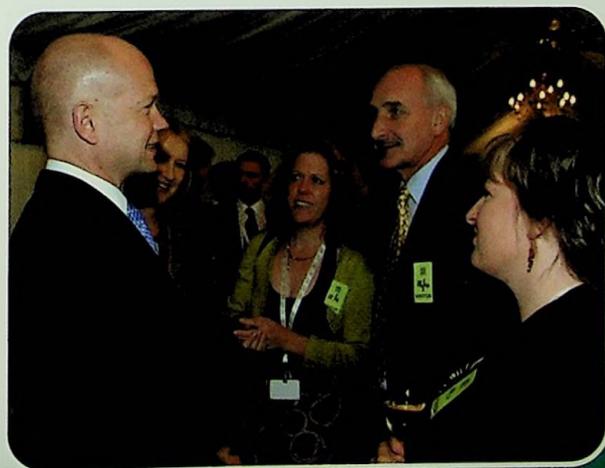
Sukey Cameron MBE, the FIG UK Representative, said: "The Forum provided us with an opportunity to take stock of our economic achievements since 1982 and to consider our future potential. It was also an occasion for us to share a picture of the modern Falklands. We are self-sufficient, self-determined and excited about our future prospects for development."

The Forum closed with a Q & A session on doing business in the Islands and was followed by a reception at the House of Commons hosted by Sir Nicholas Winterton MP, Chair of the Falkland Islands All Party Parliamentary Group. The Rt Hon William Hague MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who recently visited the Islands, pledged that a Conservative Government would uphold the current policy of supporting the Falkland Islands against Argentina's sovereignty claim.

Sir Nicholas echoed Mr Hague's opinion that there should be no doubt of bipartisan support for the Falklands.

The Forum attracted the attention of national media. Rob Davidovitz, from Sky News, described it as "eye-opening". Journalist and broadcaster Peter Jennings, said: "What impressed me was the mixture of speakers, with Government, entrepreneurs and local businesses all represented".

Duncan Campbell, from The Guardian newspaper, said the event was useful in moving the Islands on from the images of the war: "I think there are still preconceptions in Britain about the Islands and what happens there, as they are always seen through the prism of war".



Falklands Councillors Hon Janet Robertson, Hon Mike Summers OBE and Hon Dr. Andrea Clausen with the Rt Hon William Hague MP, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, at the House of Commons Reception

Presentations from the Forum can be downloaded at www.falklands.gov.fk/forum2007

25 YEARS ON: THE FAL



The hydroponic market garden

In this 25th Anniversary year of the Falklands Conflict, numerous visitors, including journalists, veterans and Royalty, have travelled to the Islands and witnessed first hand the remarkable Falklands success story.

The Falkland Islands are one of the UK's most dynamic Overseas Territories and is now self-sufficient from the UK in all areas, apart from defence which represents 0.5% of the total defence budget. The Islands' GDP has risen from £5m in 1982 to over £75m today as a result of diversification initiatives and inward investment. The Islands' international transport links have also been transformed with regular air access and connection to the worldwide containerised-shipping network.

Today, traditional sheep farmers are involved in the development of a meat export industry; tourism is the fastest growing sector with visitor figures in the range of 55,000 a year and rising; and the Falklands fishery, which provides the main source of income for the Government through the sale of fishing licenses, is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. The Islands are also an attractive frontier area for offshore and onshore mineral exploration. Indeed, the exploitation of oil deposits offshore could prove to be the Falklands' most lucrative industry yet.

The Islands are also playing their part on the international stage and engaging with global challenges. A signatory of the Kyoto protocol, the

Falklands have embraced green technology. Tim Cotter, Falkland Islands Development Corporation, said: "Over 70 farms have access to 24-hour electrical power and most are using wind turbines. A wind farm for Stanley has been constructed with the aim of optimising our wind resource and reducing our reliance on imported fuel."

Other signs of the Falklands' modernisation include several new restaurants and bars, a hydroponic market garden, an independent

radio station and a doubling of the number of households with computers over the past decade as the Islands join the Internet revolution.

Chris Simpkins, FIG Chief Executive, said: "We are committed to securing the Islands' long term economic sustainability. We will continue to build on the progress we have made towards prosperity over the past 25 years. We believe that the Islands can combine economic growth with the conservation of our unique and unspoiled environment."

Falklands at a glance

	2007	1982
<i>Resident Population</i>	2,478	1,800
<i>Main Economy</i>	Fisheries, Tourism, Agriculture	Agriculture
<i>No. of dwellings in Stanley</i>	930	463
<i>Tourists per annum</i>	55,000	500
<i>Communications/IT</i>	International phone system, Internet, Mobile phones	Internal phone communications only & two-way short band radio
<i>Road network</i>	800km	Stanley only

The population has increased by over a third and is youthful, with 78% aged 55 years and under. Many Islanders can trace their origins back over 150 years to the early days of settlement and over 90% can claim either British birth or descent.



Sports lesson underway at the modern secondary school

ISLANDS SUCCESS STORY



Nick Rendell

Nick Rendell, 25, was born in 1982. He grew up in the Islands and completed A levels and a degree in the UK before returning home to continue his career.

"My appreciation of the Falklands really developed over the course of the six years I spent studying overseas. My time in the UK served to illustrate how unique the Falkland Islands are. The sense of space,

freedom, and wilderness are all-pervasive in the Islands, and I still love the fact that if there is someone on the beach when you get there you just drive on to the next one!

"The range of wildlife and scenery is awe inspiring, while Falkland traditions, such as Camp Sports Week and the Christmas horse races are all great fun, and make me proud of my country.

"The Falklands are modernising rapidly, and many of the facilities once unheard of are now available. The advent of the mobile phone network and development of broadband internet is a reflection of the booming economy and how progress is being driven on; making the Falklands an exciting place to live and work."

25th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

Falklands' Gratitude To British Forces Is "Undiminished"

On 14 June, Liberation Day, over 400 guests, including HRH The Countess of Wessex, Baroness Thatcher and Derek Twigg MP, Veterans Minister, attended the Annual Reception at Lincoln's Inn, London. UK Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE paid tribute to the courage of the British Task Force which liberated the Islands and affirmed the wish of Falkland Islanders to seek peaceful co-operation with their neighbours. The Representative ended her speech by saying: "Together, let us ensure that never again will the tragedy of 1982 be repeated. Those who made the supreme sacrifice would expect nothing less of us."

Earlier in the day a service of commemoration and remembrance took place at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne. The service was preceded by a flypast of Harrier aircraft. After the service, Her Majesty The Queen laid a stone on the memorial Cairn. The stone, from the Falkland Islands, was dedicated during the service in memory of the people who died serving their country. The event was shown live on BBC television.



Baroness Thatcher, HRH The Countess of Wessex and Sukey Cameron MBE

Veterans Tribute

On 17 June, ten thousand Falkland Veterans and their families took part in the National Commemoration in the presence of Royalty. Representing the Government was the Prime Minister, joined by senior military and political figures past and present, including Baroness Thatcher. The veterans marched down the Mall to the Queen Victoria Memorial, where HRH The Prince of Wales took the salute. A tri-service flypast, representing the squadrons that flew in 1982, paid their own tribute to the veterans. There was a live link up with the Falklands to a wreath laying ceremony at San Carlos, presided over by HRH The Earl of Wessex.



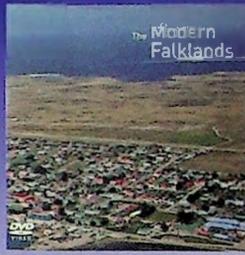
HRH the Earl of Wessex laying a wreath at San Carlos

VIP Visit to the Falkland Islands

HRH The Earl of Wessex represented Her Majesty the Queen during a week-long programme of commemorative events in the Islands. Other VIP guests included Lord Parkinson, representing Baroness Thatcher, and Lady Parkinson; Sir Rex and Lady Ham; Adam Ingram MP, Armed Forces Minister representing Her Majesty's Government; Dr Liam Fox MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence; and Sir Nicholas Winterton MP, Chair of the Falkland Islands Parliamentary All Party Group, and Lady Ann Winterton MP. Veterans and next of kin of those who died in 1982 were also present.

Modern Falklands DVD

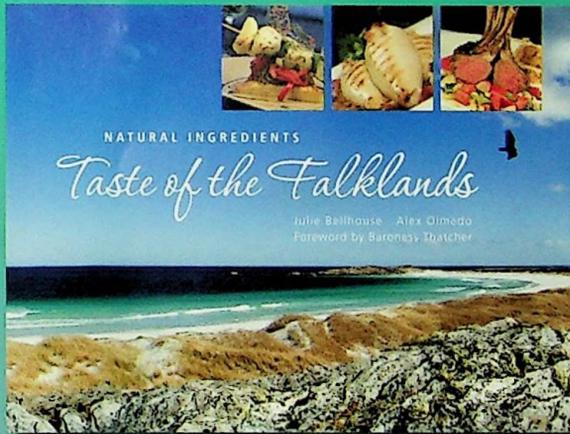
A short, inspiring film featuring Islanders telling their own stories and the progress made in the last 25 years. Copies are available free-of-charge from Falkland House.



The Times Special Focus Report

The Times published a three-page focus report on the Falkland Islands on 2 April, the 25th Anniversary of the invasion. The report looked at the Islands' economic, social and political transformation since the Conflict. Copies are available from Falkland House.

Log on to the FIG new-look website www.falklands.gov.fk which now contains a media centre and image gallery as well as providing a comprehensive overview of the Falklands.

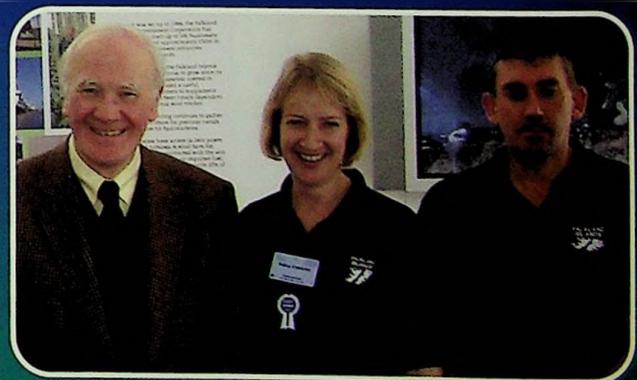


Natural Ingredients: Taste of the Falklands, a coffee-table recipe book co-produced by restaurateur Alex Olmedo and photographer Julie Bellhouse, was launched in the UK on 30 May at Falkland House. The book features mouth-watering recipes using local produce and is accompanied by beautiful photographs of Falklands scenery and wildlife. The book is on sale at Falkland House and online at www.atasteofthefalklands.com

Southampton Photographic Exhibition

A photographic exhibition of the Falkland Islands was held in May in Southampton. 'Falklands in Focus - Remembering and Developing' featured a selection of stunning images by professional and amateur photographers, who shared their personal views of the enduring beauty and character of the Islands.

High Interest in Falklands at Stoneleigh Royal Show



The FIG exhibition stand at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire, 1 - 3 July, attracted visitors who were treated to beautiful images of the Islands and had the opportunity to speak to Falkland Islands Government UK Representative Miss Sukey Cameron MBE, and Councillor Ian Hansen, pictured here with the Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell CBE QC.

25th Anniversary Coin Collection Minted

Baroness Thatcher and Sir Rex Hunt, Governor of the Falklands in 1982, launched a commemorative set of coins in May to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falklands. The coins are minted by Pobjoy Mint Ltd and will be legal tender in the Falklands. All Falklands school children received a commemorative 50-pence piece.

For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

www.falklands.gov.fk



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NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
ISSUE 82 JANUARY 2008

25 Years in London



Falkland Islands Government Office



Falklands Forum



Labour Party Conference



Royal Show

January 2008 marks 25 years since the opening of the Falkland Islands Government Office (FIGO) in London. Councillors made the decision to open an official Government Office in London following the end of the Falklands War in 1982. The office relocated many times during its first six years until the move to 14 Broadway, in the heart of Westminster, in 1989.

FIGO is one of the longest established UK Overseas Territories Offices. Sukey Cameron MBE has been the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) UK Representative

since 1990, the fourth person to have held the post.

Over the years, the work of FIGO has grown to incorporate travel and recruitment. Changing perceptions and improving understanding of the Islands is also an integral element of FIGO's activity.

The office includes a 'showcase', open to the public, which exhibits stunning art and photography of the Islands. Informative literature on the Islands is available for people to take away. Falklands products and books are also available for purchase.

FIGO maintains a strong presence in the UK by organising and taking part in major events to highlight today's modern Islands, their thriving economy and self-sufficient status. Highlights include holding two Falklands Forums, focusing on business opportunities in the Islands, attendance at County Shows, hosting the prestigious annual receptions at Lincoln's Inn and exhibiting at the Party Conferences for the past 20 years. FIGO also arranges fact-finding missions for MPs to deepen their knowledge of the Islands.

New Chief Executive



Dr. Tim Thorogood took up his position as Chief Executive in January. Previously Chief Executive of the Local Government Information Unit and, prior to this, Chief Executive of Swansea City and County Council, Dr. Thorogood has extensive experience in local government in the UK.

Dr. Thorogood said: "The Falklands have a bright future but face some major challenges, not least the continuing sovereignty claim by Argentina. We need to ensure the continued diversification of the economy and an appropriate balance between on and offshore activity."

For more information visit www.falklands.gov.fk

'All Ashore!' - Tourism Industry Welcomes Record Visitor Numbers

The Falklands tourism industry is experiencing strong annual growth in visitor numbers, primarily due to the increased popularity of cruise ship tourism.

Over 81,000 cruise ship passengers are projected to visit the Falklands in the 2007/2008 tourism season, which runs from October to April. This represents a

dramatic 58% increase on the 2006/2007 season. Top visiting nations in recent years include the United States, Britain, Canada, Germany, Brazil, and Australia.

Jake Downing took up his position as the new General Manager of the Falkland Islands Tourist Board in November. He was delighted to welcome 3,779 passengers

from three different vessels in to Stanley on 4 December, the highest number of tourists to ever visit in one day.

Despite increased demands placed on operators and local residents, the day was a great success. One tourist described Stanley as "a wonderful, authentic destination and the highlight of the cruise thus far."

Land-based tourism is also developing; the Islands now receive approximately 1,000 tourists each year staying for at least one week. Partnerships with overseas agencies in the UK, US, Australia, Switzerland, Italy and New Zealand are expected to provide a welcome boost to this lucrative sector.

Visit: www.visitorfalklands.com



Oil Companies Fuel Exploration Optimism

Oil industry representatives from five companies met in the Falklands in October, for a series of joint operator meetings with FIG and the private sector. The industry is optimistic about the prospects of finding oil and gas around the Islands.

BHP Billiton has signed an agreement with Falklands Oil and Gas Ltd where BHP will be assigned 51% of the licences. The agreement will also result in a minimum of two exploratory wells being drilled within the next three years. Meanwhile Borders and Southern Petroleum has a

large 3D seismic survey underway, and Desire Petroleum has recently conducted site surveys over its respective acreage.

Phyl Rendell, Director of Mineral Resources, said: "BHP Billiton's decision to invest in offshore exploration is a turning point for the Islands. Having a major company committing to drilling wells within the next three years has given everyone involved in the industry something to plan for and I am confident that more investment and further offshore activities will follow." Visit: www.falklands-oil.com

Fisheries Legislation Ensures Conservation of Marine Resources

The Falklands continue to implement strict fisheries legislation in order to ensure the ongoing conservation of marine resources. There has been a positive outcome for 2007.

The total Illex catch for 2007 was the highest annual catch since 2000; a total of 161.5 thousand tonnes of squid. This also represents the best season ever in terms of catch per vessel per day. The return of Illex in high numbers is reassuring in terms of the state of the stock for this year.

The Loligo fishery was good despite an early closure of the second season for conservation reasons. Total catches of Loligo for the year were almost 42,000 tonnes. The new fisheries law and system has encouraged greater industry participation in the management process.



Falklands oil industry representatives meet in Stanley



FOCUS ON EMERGENCY SERVICES

The emergency services in the Falkland Islands are an integral part of the community. Together they employ over 70 dedicated individuals who are proud to protect and serve the Islands' 2,500 inhabitants.

Police

The Royal Falkland Islands Police Force was established in 1846 and still operates from the original Police Station built in 1873, which also incorporates Stanley Prison. Officers are recruited from the local community and the UK. Superintendent Paul Elliott recently joined the force as Chief Police Officer, having served in the Lincolnshire Police Force for 30 years. He oversees the force which comprises one inspector, three sergeants, one detective constable, eight constables, one gaoler and two civilian clerks. The force has an active reserve capability with ten fully trained reserve officers who perform regular duty. As well as 24 hour Island-wide cover, the force also provides cover for South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands and the British Antarctic Territory when necessary.

The policing style in the Falklands is community focussed. The force provides a highly visible and friendly presence on the streets. Partnership work with community and statutory agencies provides opportunities for preventative work, especially in schools. The Falklands prides itself on its very low crime and high detection rate.



Fire and Rescue Service



Organised firefighting in the Falkland Islands began in 1898 with the formation of the "Stanley Volunteer Fire Brigade", which remained a voluntary service until January 1985, when the Falkland Islands Government appointed a Superintendent of Fire Services. The Falklands Fire Service became a stand-alone department in 1986, when the title of Superintendent was changed to Chief Fire Officer.

The Falkland Islands Fire and Rescue Service handles incidents across the Islands; it responded to over 240 callouts in 2007. It consists of eight fulltime firefighters and up to 40 retained personnel, of which three are females. A team can be ferried by helicopter to remote locations or indeed to incidents at sea, some personnel are trained in dealing with ship fires.

The risk of fire spreading in the Falklands is relatively high as the Islands experience frequent strong winds and most of the buildings are constructed from timber and plasterboard. This is common knowledge amongst residents and fire prevention is well publicised and practiced.

Paramedic and Flying Doctor Services

The Falkland Islands Ambulance Service is operated from the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital in Stanley and includes an emergency flying doctor service for farm settlements. Two paramedic nurses and two ambulances ensure rapid responses to all emergency calls in and around Stanley. There is also close liaison with the military services at Mount Pleasant

to ensure the speediest appropriate response. In the case of medical emergencies in Camp (the local term for the countryside) within 30 minutes of a 999 call, a paramedic will be dispatched

control staff and intensive care. A casualty nurse has loaded one of the fixed wing aircraft with equipment necessary to provide a full range of medical services

every day, and the service is available 24 hours a day. In different years, the service has responded to a number of emergencies, including a



Falklands 25 Pilgrimage



Islanders welcomed 250 Falklands War veterans and next of kin who took part in a Pilgrimage to the Falklands from 6 to 13 November for a week of reflection and to explore the modern Falkland Islands. The veterans were hosted in the homes of local families, who expressed their gratitude for the sacrifices made for their freedom. Commemorations included a service of remembrance held at the Blue Beach Cemetery at San Carlos and veterans made more personal visits to places of importance to them. UK Veterans Minister, Derek Twigg MP, was also in the Islands to coincide with the Pilgrimage.

UK Press Coverage Exhibition

An exhibition of UK media coverage of the Falkland Islands during 2007 was displayed at the Standard Chartered Bank in Stanley from 5 to 16 November. Over the past 12 months, millions of people in the UK have been given a feel for life in the Falklands 25 years on from the events of 1982 through colourful and insightful features which appeared in top print, broadcast and online media.

Diary Dates

- **12 January** - Falkland Islands Government Office, London, 25th anniversary.
- **February – March** - Art work by Shirley Merrell will be showcased at FIGO, London.

Tribute to First Falkland CE

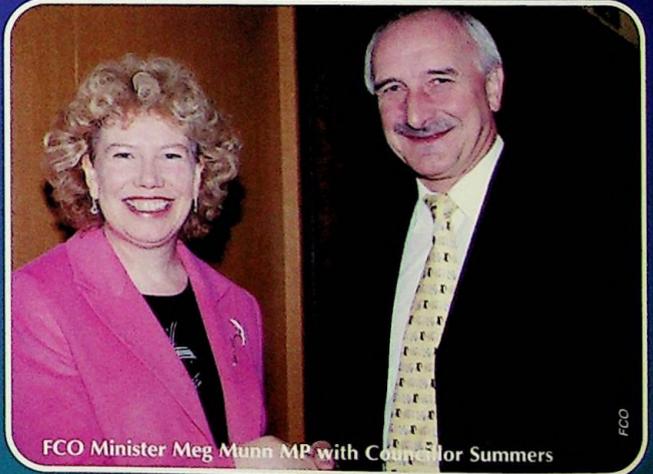
David Taylor CBE, the first Falkland Islands Government Chief Executive, passed away on 8 November. Mr Taylor was Chief Executive from 1983 to 1987 and played a key role in the recovery of the Islands following the 1982 Conflict. In addition to leading the public service through the post war re-construction, one of his main roles in the Falklands was to implement the key recommendations of the Shackleton Report. This included further civil service reform, the process of land reform (farm subdivision), setting up Falklands Islands Development Corporation and the creation of the fisheries zone.

MPs Visit the Falklands

A delegation of MPs from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK Branch) will visit the Islands from 12 to 19 February, accompanied by Sukey Cameron MBE.

From 21 to 28 February, a delegation from the Foreign Affairs Select Committee will also visit the Islands, as part of their inquiry into the UK Overseas Territories. The five committee members will be led by the Chairman, Mike Gapes MP (L).

OTCC Meeting



Councillors Janet Robertson and Mike Summers attended the ninth UK Overseas Territories' Consultative Council, which took place in London on 4 and 5 December. Issues discussed included the Overseas Territories' relationship with the UK, constitutional modernism, immigration issues and climate change. The event was hosted by Meg Munn MP, the FCO Minister for the Overseas Territories, who visited the Falkland Islands in January this year. Councillor Dr Andrea Clausen and Councillor Summers attended the annual EU Overseas Countries and Territories meeting in Brussels in October.

For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

www.falklands.gov.fk



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Islands Plan Measures Success

Substantial progress was made by the Falkland Islands in meeting the objectives laid out in the Islands Plan 2004 - 2007.

Major achievements included a 155% increase in the average profitability of small businesses in 2006 over 2001; an 8% rise in the number of Islanders undertaking tertiary education; and the continued success of the Islands' fastest growing industry, tourism, which witnessed a 39% increase in the number of long stay visitors between the 2003/04 and 2006/07 seasons.

The Islands Plan - a rolling programme aimed at achieving sustainable economic growth - was introduced by the Falkland Islands Government in 2001.

Diversification of the economy is fundamental to the Plan, which is based on nine themes under which medium term targets for society, the economy and environment are laid out.

A report, "Our Progress 2004 - 2007", highlighting both the successes and areas where more progress is needed, formed the basis of the new Islands Plan 2008 - 2012.

Falkland Islands Government Chief Executive, Dr Tim Thorogood, said: "We are encouraged by the significant developments the Islands have made over the past four years. The new Plan has an even stronger focus on outcomes and milestones, which will enable us to monitor our progress even more closely."

2008 - 2012 Islands Plan key objectives include:

- **Self-Determination** – strengthen internal self-government in a new Constitution.
- **The Economy** – secure 5% growth in GDP over the life of the plan and increase economic development opportunities with new initiatives such as a definitive port strategy.
- **The Private Sector** – encourage entrepreneurs with business start-up facilities delivering £1 million of additional Gross Added Value.
- **Management of Public Services and Finance** – review civil service structure and reduce public sector dominance.
- **Camp** (*Falklands term for the countryside*) – develop a diversified Camp economy and socially vibrant and sustainable Camp population with 90% of all Camp businesses viable by 2009.
- **Education** – achieve the highest standards of educational achievement and develop a virtual classroom for Camp Education by 2010.
- **Health** – promote and maintain a healthy and fit society, including a 10% reduction in the number of smokers by 2012.
- **Environment** – conserve the natural diversity and ecology of the Islands and meet international standards and obligations in respect of the environment.

The Islands Plan 2004 – 2007 Progress Report and Islands Plan 2008 – 2012 can be viewed at www.falklands.gov.fk

High Quality Fishery

The Falklands Fishery enjoyed above average catches of both Loligo and Illex squid in the first part of the year. Initiatives by the Fisheries Department, including the development and implementation of electronic logbooks and daily monitoring of the fishery with up to the minute reports on stock status, have been key to the continued successful management of one of the world's most important resources of squid.



Exciting Times Ahead for Falklands Oil

Oil exploration in the Falkland Islands has reached a significant turning point in recent months, with three licensees securing major interest and investment in advance of a possible drilling campaign in the region.

Desire Petroleum Plc has secured a farm-in partner who will pay the drilling costs for three of its exploration prospects in the North Falkland Basin. Rockhopper Exploration Plc has finalised agreements with several companies to supply drilling expertise and equipment in its licensed area. Falkland Oil & Gas Ltd (FOGL), which operates in the South and East Falkland Basins, has also secured investment and hopes to start exploration drilling in 2009. "This is probably one of the most exciting high impact exploration projects currently being undertaken anywhere in the world," said FOGL Chairman Mr Roger Liddell.

Phyl Rendell, Director of Mineral Resources, Falkland Islands Government, said: "These developments are extremely encouraging. It is hoped that rig availability will improve to enable further exploration. Meanwhile interest from other companies in Falklands oil exploration is on the increase".

The discovery of oil in Falklands waters would hugely benefit the Islands' economy, which has seen impressive development over the past 25 years to achieve self-sufficient status in all areas except defence. A well regulated hydrocarbons industry would enable the Islands to diversify their economy as well as contribute further to defence costs, which currently account for 0.1% of the UK's overall defence budget. The Falkland Islands Government's direct and independent defence expenditure currently totals 4.3% of GDP.

Seismic survey vessel & rig



MPs Appreciate Falklands

The Falkland Islands recently played host to a number of UK Parliamentarians, all of whom received the typically warm and friendly hospitality for which Islanders have become renowned. Delegates from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's UK branch described their visit in February as "a real eye-opening experience" and praised

the work of Councillors in furthering the cause of the Islands. Jeff Ennis MP led the delegation, which also included Paul Holmes MP, Lord Jones of Cheltenham and Lord McColl of Dulwich. The group was visiting at the invitation of the Falkland Islands Government to gain an understanding of today's modern Falklands, its history, strong links with the UK, and continued commitment to self determination.



CPA Delegation at the Chamber of Commerce

Two members of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, Eric Illsley MP and Gisela Stuart MP, visited the Islands in March as part of an inquiry on Overseas Territories. During the visit they met representatives from both the public and private sectors. On leaving the Islands they agreed they felt better able to appreciate the issues affecting Islanders. Writing in *The House* magazine about her visit, Gisela Stuart MP said: "What really draws me to the place is its people...There is a refreshing resilience and self reliance about them."

Gisela Stuart MP's article can be read at www.falklands.gov.fk/recent-features

Focus on... Agriculture

The agricultural industry plays a pivotal role in the unique culture of the Falkland Islands. Sheep farming and the export of wool were the mainstay of the Islands' economy for 160 years before the establishment of a fishing industry. The Department of Agriculture Ten Year Plan is designed to help develop and support a prosperous and self-reliant agricultural sector that creates opportunities for Falkland Islanders and is highly valued locally and internationally. The Department's short to medium term plans, outlined in the Islands Plan 2008 - 2012 (see page one), focus on three main milestones:

Organic Certification

The Falkland Islands' remote location, temperate climate and traditional farming methods provide an ideal setting to develop organic produce. To support and enhance the industry's diversification efforts, the Department of Agriculture is embarking on the establishment of an internationally recognised organic certification scheme.



Sheep Farming

Sheep farming remains the major form of land use in the Falklands and wool is the main land-based export. The Department of Agriculture is focused on providing advice and technical knowhow to enhance existing wool production. Improving the value and amount of wool produced will be achieved through initiatives such as the supply and evaluation of superior genetic material, and increasing lambing rates through improved pasture management. By 2009, it is expected that the average wool fibre diameter of Falklands wool will reach 24.75 micron and that wool income will reach £2.5 million.

Meat Industry Development

The development of a meat and livestock industry is a key diversification strategy to complement wool production. Commercial meat production started in 2002 and continues to develop, with the Falkland Islands Meat Company reporting a 15% year on year increase in the price of Falklands meat obtained during the 2007/2008 export season. The Department of Agriculture has produced a programme focused on developing livestock production systems that can consistently supply local and export markets. Initiatives are in place to improve the quality and quantity of sheep meat and beef by improving nutrition with better grazing management, improved pasture and the introduction of cost effective winter feed options. By 2010, the industry aims to achieve new income of £150,000 from beef alone.



Annual Reception



L-R: Sukey Cameron MBE, Baroness Thatcher, David Tatham, Councillor Mike Summers OBE

Over 260 people attended the Falkland Islands Government Annual Reception at Lincoln's Inn, London, on 10 June, including guest of honour Baroness Thatcher. Councillor Mike Summers OBE thanked guests for their continued support of Falkland Islanders in achieving their "legitimate goals of freedom and self determination". He went on to update guests on the prospering Falklands economy and hopes for the future, saying: "We will continue to drive forward with energy and commitment to develop our industries and our community with even more success."

Councillor Summers' speech is available to read at www.falklands.gov.fk

Students Mark Commonwealth Day



Karen Minto and Michael Brownlee, students at Chichester College in West Sussex, represented the Falkland Islands during Commonwealth Day in London on 10 March. The students took part in a tour of the Houses of Parliament followed by a discussion on the Commonwealth. They also attended the Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster Abbey. Events concluded with a reception at Marlborough House in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, who was interested to learn about the students' studies in the UK and life in the Falklands.

By-Election Result



New Legislative Council

John Birmingham has been elected to sit on the Legislative Council following a by-election on 3 January. As well as representing the interests of constituents in Stanley, he will take responsibility for the Land Use and Public Services portfolios. Councillor Birmingham previously served on the Legislative Council from 1993 to 2005.

Falklands History Clarified

A booklet, entitled *Getting it right: the real history of the Falklands*, has been launched by independent scholars Dr Graham Pascoe and Peter Pepper. The new research was presented at the London School of Economics in May and is a condensed version of a detailed, 1,000-page study of the subject, *The Falklands Saga: a Critical Study of the Falkland Islands in History and International Law*, by Dr Pascoe and Mr Pepper, which is expected to be published in 2009.

The booklet is available to download at www.wildisland.gs/atlantis/gettingitright.pdf

Dictionary of Falklands Biography

A *Dictionary of Falklands Biography* has been published, containing essays on the lives of 480 people connected with the history of the Falklands and South Georgia from 1592 to 1981. The Dictionary can be purchased from www.d-falklands-b.com or at Falkland House in London.

Diary Dates

- **Royal Show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, 3 – 6 July** - UK Government Representative Sukey Cameron MBE, together with colleagues from the Islands, will be present on the Falkland Islands stand in the International Village. This will be the tenth year the Falkland Islands have exhibited at the Show.
- **Annual UK Political Party Conferences** - Councillors Andrea Clausen and Ian Hansen will be present, together with Sukey Cameron, on the Falkland Islands Government stand at the Labour Party Conference in Manchester, 20 – 24 September, and the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, 28 September – 1 October.

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Falkland Islands Gain New Constitution



Members of the legislature involved in negotiations

A new Constitution for the Falkland Islands was adopted on 1 January 2009 after almost ten years of discussion and negotiation. The Constitution was agreed by the UK Government and the Falkland Islands Government; all Falkland Islanders had an opportunity to discuss and comment on it at all stages before it was finalised.

The Falklands have developed considerably, both economically and socially, since the previous Constitution was introduced in 1985 and the new Constitution reflects this. The Islanders' right to determine their own future has been reinforced, as self-determination is now embedded in the main body of the Constitution. The Constitution enhances local democracy, while retaining sufficient powers for the UK Government to protect UK interests and to ensure the overall good governance of the Territory.

The Constitution provides for greater transparency and accountability through the creation of a Public Accounts

Committee and a Complaints Commissioner, and the Human Rights chapter has been brought up to date to bring it into line with international agreements.

In line with other UK Overseas Territories, the Legislative Council will now be called the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Councillors are now Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The new Constitution makes much clearer Assembly Members' responsibility for most domestic policies and that, in general, the Governor will now have to abide by the advice of the Executive Council on such matters. However, the new Constitution will also enshrine a power for the Governor not to act upon Executive Council's advice "in the interests of good governance", or in relation to external affairs, defence, internal security, the administration of justice, audit, and management of the public service.

See page two for a personal view on the new Constitution by The Hon. Mike Summers OBE.

21 Years of Representation at Party Conferences

In September 2008 the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) celebrated its twenty first consecutive year of attendance at the Labour and Conservative Party Conferences. FIG is one of the longest standing exhibitors at the Conferences. This year Sukey Cameron MBE, the UK Representative, was joined on the Falkland Islands stand by The Hon. Ian Hansen.

FIG was congratulated by the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Gordon Brown MP, for its continued support of the Labour Party Conference. At the Conservative conference the Falklands stand occupied a prime site and was used as a back drop for several news reports. The MoD flights to the Islands particularly attracted the attention of Rt. Hon David Cameron MP, with RAF Brize Norton being in his constituency.

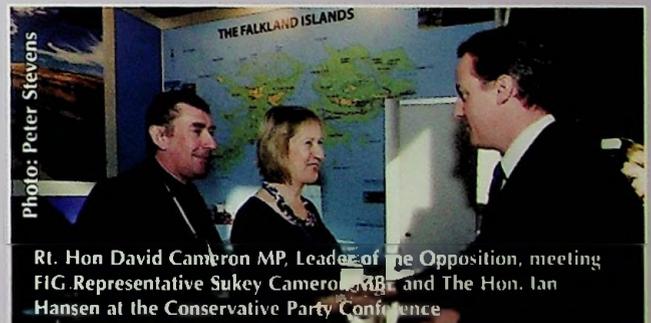


Photo: Peter Stevens

Rt. Hon David Cameron MP, Leader of the Opposition, meeting FIG Representative Sukey Cameron MBE and The Hon. Ian Hansen at the Conservative Party Conference

Falklands Farms Go Green

The Department of Agriculture has established links for Falkland Islands farms to join an internationally recognised organic certification scheme through the Biological Farmers of Australia. The scheme will support and enhance the industry's diversification efforts and it is hoped that the overall effect is an increase in farm profitability, since the premiums paid for organic wool and meat should more than cover accreditation costs.

Ten Falklands farms have registered so far to convert their farm production units to organic status and it is hoped that 40% of Falkland Islands farm land will have organic status by 2011. The Falkland Islands' remote location, temperate climate and traditional farming methods provide an ideal setting to develop organic produce.

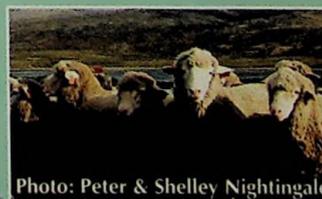


Photo: Peter & Shelley Nightingale

For further information, visit www.falklands.gov.fk//Agriculture.html and www.agriculture.gov.fk.

The New Constitution; Coming of Age for the Falkland Islands

by *The Hon. Mike Summers OBE, a Member of the Legislative Assembly*

This month sees the introduction of a new Constitution for the Falkland Islands. It is a significant milestone for our community and we are justifiably proud of what it represents; a further strengthening of our democracy and internal self government and confirmation of our inalienable right to decide our own future. And our decision, lest anyone need reminding, is to remain British.

Highlights of the Constitution

Our right to self-determination is now firmly embedded in the main body of the Constitution and demonstrates both our and Her Majesty's Government's mutual resolve to adhere to the explicit terms of the UN Charter on the right to self-determination for all peoples. This principle was further endorsed by the United Nations Fourth Committee (special Political and Decolonisation) on 20 October last year.

Islanders' Views

'Moving to the Falklands was a leap of faith for us, seeing the constitution move forward like this proves it was the right choice'

John Clifford

Falklands Resident

The Constitution also further advances internal self-government by requiring

Islanders' Views

'The recent recognition by the UN of our right to self-determination was incredibly important for us all. It gives us a sense of security, a true feeling of belonging and above all peace of mind in knowing that we have by law this fundamental right enshrined in our constitution.'

Samantha Brownlee,
a Falkland Islander studying in the UK

HMG's Governor to consult our Executive Council on all matters to do with the Islands, and to accept that advice except where HMG's other international obligations may take precedence in international affairs and defence, or the administration of justice, the independence of the police or other good governance issues may

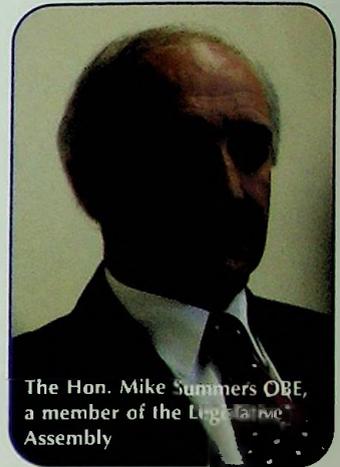
require. This may look like a long list of exclusions, but to Islanders themselves, it's not. Falkland Islanders have freely exercised their right of self-determination on numerous occasions by clearly indicating their wish to remain British. This new Constitution re-states our right to decide our own future and enhances our powers of self-government. Surely no one who supports democracy and civil rights can oppose this?

Enhancing Democracy

The new Constitution makes provision for the setting up of a Public Accounts Committee whose responsibilities will include oversight of the public accounts and such other functions as may be ascribed to it by law, and for the function of Complaints Commissioner. Each of these new institutions will enhance democratic accountability and enhance the rights of the citizens.

A Footnote

The new Constitution has been an enormous undertaking



The Hon. Mike Summers OBE,
a member of the Legislative Assembly

involving hundreds of hours spent in discussion and reviewing multiple drafts - and thousands of miles flown to attend those meetings. My thanks, therefore, to my colleagues of the Falkland Islands Legislature (past and present) who took part in the process and the many members of HMG who worked with us on this project of momentous importance in a positive and co-operative spirit.

Islanders' Views

"I believe the new Constitution re-states our desire to remain British and will allow the next generation of Falkland Islanders to decide their own future."

Zoran Zovic,
a Falkland Islander studying in the UK



Members of Council discussing the Constitution with representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

For more information on the new Constitution, visit www.falklands.gov.fk/assembly/The_Constitution.html

Focus on... Renewable Energy

The Falkland Islands' location necessarily means that imported fossil fuels are expensive to use, so the Falkland Islands Government is taking advantage of the one source of energy that is cheap, green and in plentiful supply – wind power.

Since 1996, the Government has been investing in a forward-thinking and environmentally friendly policy to increase its use of renewable energy supplies, such as windpower, and working with the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) and consumers to develop the renewable energy grant scheme. This scheme continues to help the Islands move towards sustainability, as well as protecting the unique environment of the Falklands.

Rural Wind Power

Farms in the Islands used to rely solely on diesel generators for their power but this was expensive and only provided electricity for a few hours a day. Farmers realised the potential for harnessing wind power and today, with funding assistance through FIDC, 85% of farms have 24-hour power from renewable sources.

Falklands Energy Facts

- At a recent European Union seminar, the Falklands were named in the leading group of Overseas Territories in terms of the percentage of electricity produced from renewable resources.
- Phase Two of the Sand Bay Wind Farm will consist of three further E33 Enercon turbines and three flywheels.
- FIG envisages up to 40% of power generation from wind turbines by mid 2010.
- Whilst hydro electricity trials have been undertaken, the Islands' rainfall is too low to provide an effective source of power.
- With more sunshine hours than the South of England, solar power is used for electric fencing on some farms.

Island Energy

Renewable energy, especially wind power, is important for islands, such as the Falklands, for the following reasons:

- Fuel costs are higher because of the expense of transportation.
- Islands tend to have higher wind speeds.
- Small power stations are not as efficient as large ones.

Urban Wind Power

In 2006, the Falkland Islands Government unveiled proposals for Sand Bay Wind Farm, located near the capital, Stanley, and the first phase of the project has since proved highly successful. The installation of three wind turbines resulted in the displacement of 20% of the Stanley Power Station's annual fuel consumption.

Phase Two of the Wind Farm has recently been approved and will consist of three further turbines and three flywheels (flywheels are used to store the energy generated by the turbines). The supply and installation of this additional equipment is expected to double the present output. The most significant impact of Phase Two will be the reduction in the amount of diesel used on the Islands, thereby reducing costs and minimising the environmental impact.

HMS Endurance Returns Home

Following severe flooding to her engine room, *HMS Endurance* is to return home to Portsmouth for repairs. A welcome and familiar sight around the Falkland Islands, she is the Royal Navy's sole ice patrol ship. Royal Naval ships named *HMS Endurance* have been deployed in the South Atlantic since 1967. Although she suffered some significant damage, she is expected to return to the South Atlantic after her repairs.



Positive Feedback from Overseas Territories Talks

The Hon. Mike Summers OBE, HE the Governor Alan Huckle and UK Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE were present at last year's annual Overseas Territories Consultative Council, held in London on 28-29 October 2008. The Hon. Mike Summers described the event as having been 'positive and constructive'. The MOD Airbridge and the new Constitution were among the topics discussed during bi-lateral talks with the new Minister for Overseas Territories, Gillian Merron MP.

Appointment of New FCO Minister

The post of Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, previously held by Meg Munn MP, was passed to Gillian Merron, MP for Lincoln, on 5 October 2008. The position brings with it a range of responsibilities, including the Overseas Territories.



Gillian Merron MP with The Hon. Mike Summers OBE

Miss Merron, who has been a member of the British Parliament since 1997, visited the Falklands in 1998, when she was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Doug Henderson MP, then Armed Forces Minister.

Falklands Landmines to be Cleared

At the Ottawa Convention meetings on 26 November 2008, British Ambassador of Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament, John Duncan, announced that the UK has decided to proceed with the clearance of three minefields in the Falkland Islands. The work is expected to begin on the sites in the second half of 2009, after preliminary work on logistics and the environmental impact has been completed.

Following the end of the Falklands War, British Forces cleared 1,400 of the 18,000 mines laid by Argentine forces. The Ministry of Defence estimates that there are 101 minefields remaining in the Islands, covering a total of 20 square miles (less than 0.5% of the total land area).

New Haven Ferry Terminal Opens

On 8 November 2008 His Excellency the Governor, Mr Alan Huckle, formally opened the New Haven Ferry Terminal in front of a crowd of over one hundred people who gathered from Stanley and Camp. The terminal was completed only a year after construction began and will provide an invaluable link between East and West Falklands. The service will encourage easier economic and social links between the Islands, helping to generate new business and make land-based tourism much more attractive.



FIRS Goes Global

Falkland Islands Radio Service (FIRS) has begun streaming live through the Station's website www.firs.co.fk. The first official programme, 'The Fusion', was aired on 8 November 2008, hosted by Stacy Bragger and with an exclusive interview with the Kaiser Chiefs. The online radio service will enable people around the world to keep up to date with events in the Falklands.

Falkland Islands Tipped as 'One to Watch'

Three leading specialist tour operators have tipped the Falkland Islands as a yet-to-be-discovered destination that offers adventure holidaymakers access to one of the world's most unspoilt regions. Representatives from Cox & Kings, Journey Latin America and Steppes Travel voiced their opinions following a familiarisation visit to the Islands, organised by the Falkland Islands Tourist Board, in September 2008. The party visited eight of the Falkland's 776 islands during their week-long visit. Nick Wilkins of Cox & Kings said, "I thought it was one of the best wildlife experiences I have ever had for the ease of access to the animals. Great scenery, great wildlife, friendly people; a destination I would recommend to anyone."



Agents en-route to Volunteer Point, East Falkland: James Armitage, Andrea Rodighiero, Nick Wilkins and Ben Line

www.visitorfalklands.com

New Year's Honours

Shirley Adams-Leach, a dedicated music teacher, has received an MBE for her services to musical education in the Falkland Islands. She has instilled enthusiasm in music in a large number of Falklands students for over a decade. Also in the Queen's New Year's honours list was Brigadier Nicholas Roy Davies MBE MC, who was appointed CBE in recognition of his long and distinguished service, particularly in the Falkland Islands during the 25th anniversary of the 1982 Conflict.

For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

www.falklands.gov.fk



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Drilling For Oil Expected to Start in February 2010

Desire Petroleum has exchanged a letter of intent with Diamond Offshore Drilling for a rig to undertake a drilling campaign in the North Falkland Basin. The rig is expected to arrive in February 2010.

Eleven representatives, from Desire Petroleum, Argos Resources,

Rockhopper Exploration, BHP Billiton and Borders and Southern Petroleum, visited the Falkland Islands in May to meet members of the Government and the business community. Two of the companies also took the opportunity to discuss their Environmental Impact Assessments with the local community. Phyl Rendell, Director

of Minerals, commented: "While we cannot yet confirm that any oil will be found, we are delighted that the companies involved are serious about environmental concerns and committed to drilling in Falklands waters."

www.falklands.gov.fk/Oil_&Minerals.html

CONTENTS

- Drilling For Oil
- Election News
- Falklands Fishery Boost
- Biodiversity Strategy
- Falklands Tourism
- Focus On... Review of Government
- News in Brief
- Diary Dates

Visiting MPs Praise Falklands



MPs meeting Islanders at San Carlos

Madeleine Moon, Labour MP for Bridgend, and Brian Binley, Conservative MP for Northampton South, visited the Islands from 19 to 24 February. The visit included Government briefings on fisheries,

hydrocarbons, tourism, agriculture and defence. Ms Moon commented that the trip had been highly successful, while Mr Binley said that the Falklands' people were the most important asset of the Islands.

First Election Under New Constitution

On 5 November the first election will take place under the revised Falkland Islands Constitution, which was introduced on 1 January. Eight Members will be elected to serve on the Legislative Assembly, which is responsible for passing legislation for the peace, order

and good government of the Falkland Islands. The new Constitution provides enhanced local democracy and internal self-government, whilst also enshrining the right of self-determination.

www.falklands.gov.fk/assembly/The_Constitution.html

Assembly Adopts Islands Plan

The Islands Plan, the Falkland Islands Government's road map for achieving sustainable economic growth while preserving the environment and culture of the Falklands, has been officially adopted by the Legislative Assembly. The Islands Plan lays out nine themes under which targets for society, the economy and environment in the medium term are laid out. These include the right to self determination; sustainable economic and fiscal management; education; transport and communications; health; good governance; Camp; environment; and quality of life and community safety.

www.falklands.gov.fk/The_Islands_Plan.html

Argentine Next of Kin to Visit

The Falkland Islands Government is pleased that arrangements have finally been agreed for a humanitarian visit of Argentine next of kin to the Falkland Islands on 3 and 10 October and is grateful to LAN, the Chilean airline, for providing extra capacity on its scheduled services to accommodate the families of the fallen who wish to travel to the event. Although next of kin visits to the Falkland Islands have been taking place regularly since 1991, this will be the largest of its kind and the logistics involved are considerable.

New Governor for the Falklands

It has been announced that Mr Nigel Haywood CVO has been appointed as the next Governor of the Falkland Islands and Commissioner of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

in succession to Mr Alan Huckle. Mr Haywood, who was previously British Consul-General in Basra, Iraq and Ambassador in Tallinn, Estonia, will take up his post in September 2010.

Diversification Boosts Fishery

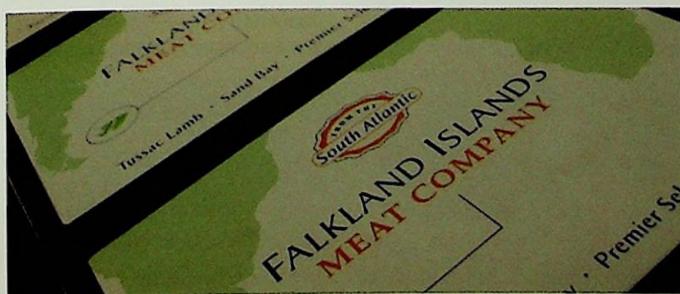
The Falklands fishery, which has been praised for its high quality management in the Public Library of Science online journal *Biology*, has been diversifying to reduce the effect of the recent decline of the *Illex* squid. A new fishery is to be opened offshore for the Grenadier, a marine fish of the family *Macrouridae*. With new measures in place to reduce the mortality of sea birds caused by fishing and new technology introduced to improve the monitoring and tracking of fishing vessels, the Falklands fishery is looking forward to consolidating progress made with the introduction of the new fisheries law and individual transferable quota system.

The three-year programme of development of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation's Aquaculture Project is drawing to a close, with the hope that the on-shore breeding of species such as sea trout and polychaete worms will be developed into a commercially sustainable operation.

www.falklands.gov.fk//Fisheries.html

Positive Production and Sales at Sand Bay Abattoir

The Falkland Islands Meat Company has completed a very successful seventh export season, maintaining an average of 450 sheep/lambs per day processed. Export sales have been as good as last year and in a number of cases higher prices achieved, despite the recession. Customers this year include Denmark, Sweden, Spain and the UK.



Record Breaking Season for Tourism



A cruise ship visiting the Falklands © FITB

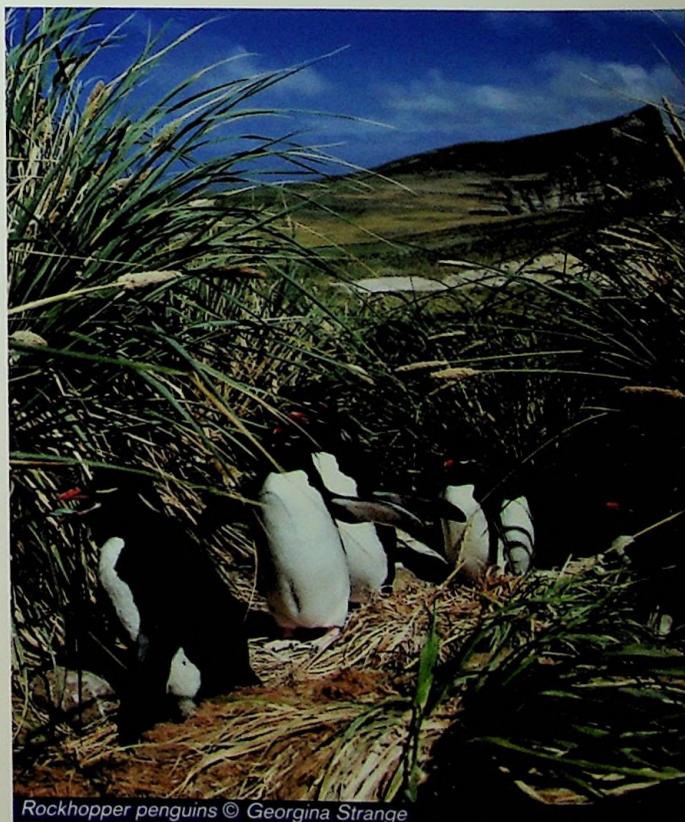
The Falkland Islands are riding on the crest of a wave following a record-breaking visitor season with increased visitor numbers, new tourist facilities available, and confidence in further growth. The recent season (October 2008 – April 2009), which saw 62,600 passengers arriving on 105 ships, compared to 62,200 in 2007-2008, has topped off a decade of visitor number increases resulting in impressive growth of 218% over the past 10 years. On 6 February a new record was set when 4,053 visitors arrived on board cruise ships in one day. Cruise tourism brought almost £4.2 million revenue into the Falklands in the 2008-9 season, while land-based tourists spent an estimated £3.2 million.

www.falklands.gov.fk//Tourism.html

Government Publishes Biodiversity Strategy

In June the Falkland Islands Government released its updated biodiversity strategy for 2008-2018, which will ensure the Islands' natural resources are managed for the long-term benefit of all. Legislative Assembly Member the Honourable John Birmingham commented: "As Falkland Islanders, we are proud and very aware of the uniqueness of our environment. However, we are also aware of how our actions can affect that same environment and of the need to protect what we cherish."

www.epd.gov.fk/wp-content/uploads/BiodiversityStrategy09.pdf



Rockhopper penguins © Georgina Strange

Focus On... Review of Government

Restructure Aims to Reduce Cost of Government

The Review of Government presented by the Chief Executive, Dr Tim Thorogood, was accepted by Executive Council in December 2008. Executive Council agreed the details of a new top management structure at its March meeting and some of the new roles have already been filled. The new structure aims to reduce the on-going costs of government by £200,000 per year and achieve a more strategic, dynamic and efficient public sector best suited to achieve the aspirations of the Islands Plan within a challenging global context.

The Review recommends the following actions:

1. Reduce the size and role of government

This would improve value for money and encourage economic growth.

2. Regulation

A new Regulatory Department should be given substantial powers to regulate across a wide but defined field including private sector monopolies and mergers, civil aviation, telecommunications and all services transferred from government to the private sector.

3. Introduce a new FIG Structure

The new organisational structure has a small top team and below this a consistent tier of Heads of Service who have clearly delegated responsibility for day to day issues.

4. Focus and Priorities

More focus should be given to the process of Islands Planning (see page one), Business Planning and Individual Appraisals.

5. People Management

People Management issues should be addressed to avoid lack of workforce planning, career development and skills development.

6. Efficiency

The new structure should facilitate greater efficiency both by reducing over time the number of management and administrative posts but also by giving managers sufficient scope and delegation to develop their services more efficiently.

7. Customers

The proximity of government and extent of face to face contact means FIG provides a level of customer service that is second to none, whilst it aims to improve communications between FIG and its customers.

8. Political leadership and civil service

The current development of Islands Planning, business planning, financial green papers and so on will encourage strategic thinking and underpin the development of more strategic roles for Assembly Members.



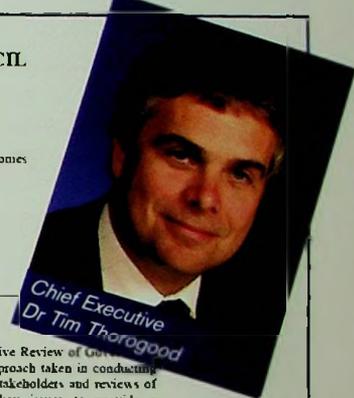
The Secretariat

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
CONFIDENTIAL

Title of Report: Review of Government - major outcomes
Paper No: 233/08
Date: 18 December 2008
Report of: Chief Executive

1. Purpose

1.1 This report summarises progress on the comprehensive Review of Government being led by the Chief Executive. It outlines the approach taken in conducting the review, reports findings from discussions with stakeholders and reviews of best practice overseas, and then analyses the key issues to provide a comprehensive set of proposals. These will achieve a more strategic, dynamic and efficient public sector best suited to achieve the aspirations of the Islands Plan within a challenging global context.



Chief Executive
Dr Tim Thorogood

The Review

How was Government Reviewed?

- The views and ideas from local people and businesses were considered.
- Ideas were sought from overseas.
- There was a critical review by independent experts.
- Further consultation with staff in December 2008.

The future vision for the Public Service

The Review envisages a public service which:

- Provides strong aspirational leadership.
- Engages and focuses staff and community behind common endeavour.
- Achieves world comparable performance and efficiency.
- Provides unity of outcome but diversity of delivery; stimulates initiative, competition and economic growth.
- Maintains and improves strong governance and finance.

The Review can be read on www.falklands.gov.fk.

Falklands Welcome HRH the Princess Royal



HRH Princess Anne and her husband, Vice-Admiral Timothy Laurence, arrived on 23 March for a visit to the Falklands Islands and South Georgia. The Princess Royal carried out a number of public engagements, including opening the new extension to the police station.

Councillors Make Case for Self-Determination at UN



The Hon. Janet Robertson and the Hon. Richard Stevens

Two elected Members of the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Janet Robertson and the Honourable Richard Stevens,

delivered a message of self-determination at the United Nations Special Committee of 24 on Decolonisation in New York on 18 June. Their speeches explained how the new Constitution guarantees Islanders the right to determine their own political future, while the achievements of Islanders demonstrate how they have earned this right.

www.falklands.gov.fk/assembly/UN_Committee_of_24.html

Falklands Briefing for Foreign Press in London

On 11 June, representatives of the Falkland Islands Government briefed a group of journalists at the Foreign Press Association on how they are planning to secure a successful future through economic and political development. The Honourable Mike Summers OBE, Government Spokesman, was joined by Sukey Cameron MBE, UK Representative, and told press that, with a successful tourism industry, continued diversification of agriculture and the development of the fishing industry, the future of the Islands' economy is bright.

Annual Reception in London

The Falkland Islands Government Annual Reception took place this year on 9 June at the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. Around 250 guests attended the event, including MPs, Peers, Legislative Assembly Members, visiting Islanders, Falkland Islands students, FCO and MoD personnel, and other friends and supporters of the Falkland Islands. The speech by the Falkland Islands Government Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE, which was well received, was followed by a message from Her Majesty the Queen, read by David Tatham CMG, Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, who then proposed the Loyal Toast.



Sir Nicholas Winterton MP DL, Chair of the Falklands Parliamentary Group, and Sukey Cameron MBE

Liberty Lodge Ready to Welcome Veterans

British veterans who served in the Falklands in 1982 now have their own house in Stanley. Liberty Lodge was officially opened on 3 February by the Commander of British Forces in the Falkland Islands, Air

Commodore Gordon Moulds CBE. It is hoped that more veterans will stay in the Lodge, enjoy the company of Falkland Islanders and that these visits will help them come to terms with their experiences during the war.

Falklands Athletes at Island Games



Doug Clark leads the Falklands team in the opening ceremony

The Falklands were represented once again at the Island Games, which took place in the Åland Islands in June and July. Thirty-five athletes competed in sports including badminton, table tennis, football, golf and clay target shooting. The Falklands have been represented at every Games since 1991 and have been awarded a total of 15 medals.

Diary Dates

27 September - 1 October:

Falklands Stand at the Labour Party Conference

28 September - 6 October:

55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Tanzania

5-8 October: Falklands Stand at the Conservative Party Conference

5 November: General Election

8-9 December: Overseas Territories Consultative Council

For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:
www.falklands.gov.fk



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Falklands FOCUS

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 86

May 2010

Oil Found in Falklands Waters

Rockhopper Exploration plc, one of the four companies that are sharing the 'Ocean Guardian' rig in a multi-well oil exploration campaign, is the first to have located oil. The company made an announcement to the London Stock Exchange, on the eve of the UK General Election, which 'indicated an oil discovery' had been made at its Sea Lion well, located 137 miles off the north coast of the Islands.

Continued on page 2.



Ocean Guardian rig at Invergordon, © Diamond Offshore Drilling International

CONTENTS

- Oil Found
- Election News
- Members Log Over 100,000 Miles
- Focus On... Hydrocarbons Exploration
- Renewable Energy
- Loligo Season
- News in Brief
- Diary Dates

Members Log Over 100,000 Miles

Members of the Legislative Assembly have travelled 116,000 miles in their first six months in office and have attended a number of international meetings since they were elected in November.

- The Hon. Dick Sawle attended the Overseas Territories Consultative Forum and Council on 7 and 8 December 2009 in London, and from 7 to 19 March he attended the Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practices and Procedures, organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).
- The Hon. Sharon Halford visited the UK from 13 to 21 March, with fellow Public Accounts Committee members, to find out more about how

Public Accounts Committees promote good governance and careful financial management. She also attended the CPA's annual British Islands and Mediterranean Regional Conference, which took place from 10 to 14 May on the Isle of Man. This year's conference theme was 'Technology and Democracy: Successes and Challenges'.

- The Hon. Roger Edwards led a delegation in Brussels from 23 to 26 March for the annual Forum for Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union.
- The Hon. Emma Edwards has travelled the furthest by attending the UN Committee of 24 Seminar in New Caledonia, travelling via London, from 18 to 22 May.

Record Turnout in First Election Held Under New Constitution

Nearly 80% of the electorate exercised their right to vote on 5 November 2009 in the first election to be held since the new Constitution was adopted on 1 January 2009. The Election achieved a record turnout of 1,232 representing 77.7% of the electorate. This compares favourably with the UK, which recorded a turnout of 65.1% at the recent General Election on 6 May.

Eight new Members were elected to the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly, which is

empowered to pass legislation for the peace, order and good government of the Falkland Islands. The number of candidates standing for election had increased since the 2005 General Election, with 18 candidates standing for eight seats.

The turnout in Camp (the local term for the countryside) was an impressive 89.3%, as mobile polling stations travelled around the Islands by land and air to register the votes of the rural electorate.

www.falklands.gov.fk/assembly



Members of the Legislative Assembly

Focus On... Hydrocarbons Exploration

Oil Drilling Update

The oil rig 'Ocean Guardian' started an exploratory drilling programme in Falkland Islands' waters on 22 February. Since then the rig has drilled two wells. The first well, named Liz, was drilled in the North Falkland Basin for Desire Petroleum plc. Final logging has been completed and the well has now been plugged and abandoned as a gas discovery - which the Falkland Islands Government considers very encouraging.

The rig then passed to Rockhopper Exploration plc, which commenced drilling the Sea Lion well, also in the North Falkland Basin, on 16 April. When determining reservoir quality, the company reported that 53 metres of net pay in multiple zones had been located. 'Ocean Guardian' will now drill a well for BHP Billiton, the first to be drilled to the south of the Islands.

"It is hard to overstate the Islanders' Britishness"
- The Times

Falklands Become Focus of World Media

The international media spotlight was firmly on the Falkland Islands when the 'Ocean Guardian' rig arrived in Falklands waters in February. Journalists from around the world picked up on the story and filed stories in print, radio, TV and online media. Several TV crews visited the Islands and the British press, in particular, generated several full page articles.

Speculation of 'billions of pounds worth of black gold' (The Daily Mirror) grew apace, but Members of the Legislative Assembly were quick to refute inaccuracies by participating in

interviews, submitting letters to editors and writing articles. Statements from FIG were posted on the www.falklands.gov.fk website for use by the media.

While the world's media whipped up a frenzy over 'Argy-Bargy' (The Sun) when Argentina protested against the drilling, the UK reassured Islanders that they would be protected. The British press was also very supportive of the right of Falkland Islanders to drill in their own waters, recognising the significance of self-determination in modern diplomacy.

"The Falkland Islands are British and should remain so as long as their inhabitants wish"

- Wall Street Journal

"The Falklands must remain British"

- New Statesman

Interview with Phyl Rendell, Director of Mineral Resources

Q Do the Islands need oil when they are almost self-sufficient and enjoy substantial revenue from fishing licences?

A The Falkland Islands Government is seeking to diversify and grow its economy so that it can reduce its reliance on the fishery.

Q What is the likelihood of finding commercial quantities of oil?

A There are no guarantees, but analysts say that the probability of finding oil or gas in commercial quantities is at best one in five.

Q How much oil is there?

A It's impossible to say at this stage but the geological indications are positive.

Q If oil or gas is found when will it be first commercially available?

A It could be ten years after a commercial discovery before oil production commences, and even longer for gas.

Q The Falkland Islands are a British Overseas Territory; will HMG receive a share of any oil revenue?

A All British Overseas Territories have ownership of their natural resources. But there is a long standing commitment from Falkland Islanders to make a greater contribution to defence costs if there are substantial revenues in the long term.

Q What are you doing to ensure the natural environment is preserved?

A We are careful to make certain that exploration is well regulated and conducted to best practice international standards so that it presents minimum risk to the environment. Before we grant a licence to an oil company they have to demonstrate that they have the technical knowledge, physical and financial capability to explore safely. As importantly, they have to submit a thoroughly researched Environmental Impact Statement covering all aspects of the drilling operations.



"The Falkland Islands will be fully defended"

- BBC News Online

For further information on Falklands oil please visit www.falklands.gov.fk/Oil_&_Minerals.html

Oil Timeline

1970s - 1990s:

Seismic surveys indicate the existence of potential oil source rocks

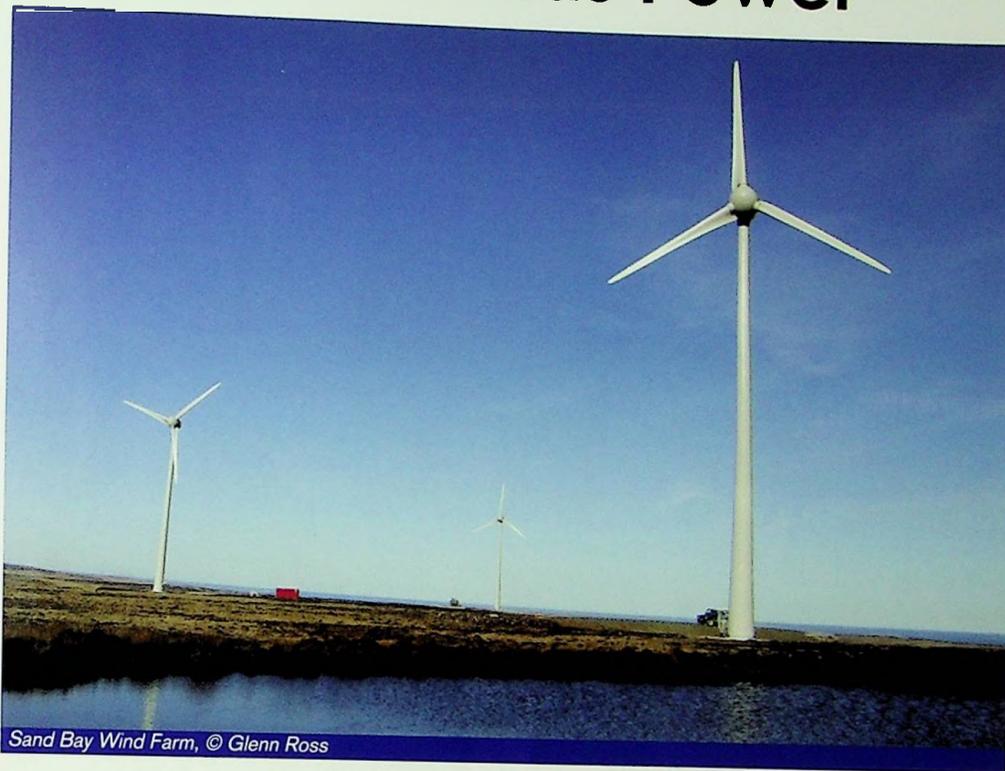
1995-1996:

Licensing round which attracts interest from several companies including Shell and Amerada Hess

1998:

Rig Borgny Dolphin and gas shows, with

Renewable Energy Supplies 40% of Falklands Power



Sand Bay Wind Farm, © Glenn Ross

Three new wind turbines, which went online in February, will generate up to 40% of the total electricity consumed in Stanley. The first three turbines were installed in 2007 and resulted in the displacement of 26% of annual fuel consumption.

This figure compares favourably to the UK Government's goal for 20% of electricity to be renewable by 2020. As well as reducing their carbon footprint in order to protect the Islands' environment, the increase in renewable energy has meant that the cost of electricity has been reduced by six pence per unit for Islanders. The wind farm, near the Sand Bay Abattoir, saved £600,000 last year.

Phase Three of the development of the wind farm will be energy storage, achieved by charging a 2MWh battery during optimal wind times and discharging the battery when wind is not available. This will ensure that energy production is kept more constant.

The authorities at the Mount Pleasant military base (MPC) have confirmed their interest in developing a wind farm. Subject to agreement, it is planned that the Power and Electrical Section of the Public Service Department will install the turbines at Mount Pleasant and the Ministry of Defence will pay FIG for the energy used. Benefits to the base include fuel savings and helping to meet energy saving targets.

Best Loligo Season Since 2000

'The best for ten years' is how fishing companies in the Falklands are describing the first Loligo squid fishing season of the year, which ended on 14 April. Catches in the last few weeks of the season exceeded 28,000 tonnes and were described as 'good quality' by the companies. Loligo is the Falklands' native squid which is most often sold to Spain (where it is known as 'calamares'), Italy, Greece and, increasingly, Eastern Europe.

www.falklands.gov.fk//Fisheries.html

Seabird Mortality Set to Decline

The Falkland Islands have recently adopted their second Plan of Action to reduce seabird mortality due to trawling activity. The first Plan was approved in 2004, following the work of the Seabird at Sea Team, involving collaboration between Falklands Conservation, RSPB and FIG. It is hoped that the Plan will build on the success of the long-line Fishery's 2004 plan, when a 90% reduction in seabird deaths was recorded.



Black-browed albatross, © Georgina Strange

Tourism Expects Brighter Future

With the global tourism outlook improving, overall tourist arrivals in the Falklands are forecast to increase inbound tourism by 17% in the 2010/11 season.

The new General Manager of the Falkland Islands Tourist Board (FITB), Paul Trowell, who arrived in the Islands at the end of the season, will focus on raising awareness of the Falkland Islands as a 'must see' destination and will have been

helped by two recent press articles which tipped Bluff Cove Lagoon Beach as one of the Sunday Times Travel magazine's '50 Best Beaches in the World' and Bleaker Island as one of The Times' top twenty 'Ultimate Escapes'.

'Falklands Exposed', a photo competition recently organised by the FITB, attracted over 1,300 entries from around the world.

www.falklands.gov.fk//Tourism.html



'Surfing Penguins', the winning entry in the wildlife category of the FITB photo competition, taken by Air Commodore Gordon Moulds MBE

Is six wells which encounter oil
sh not in commercial quantities

2010: Ocean Guardian rig arrives

2020+: If oil or gas is found in commercial quantities in 2010, production could commence

News in Brief...

Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Passed to Falklands



Falklands children (and penguins) posing proudly with the baton © Falkland Islands Overseas Games Association

The Falkland Islands were the southern-most stop for the 2010 Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay team when it visited the Islands in February. The Baton will have been 'passed' to 71 Commonwealth countries during its pre-Games journey. The Relay Team was met by the Governor, Assembly Members and representatives from the Mount Pleasant military base before embarking on a busy schedule around the Islands, including the highest point, Mount Usborne.

Fundraising for Chile and Haiti

Falkland Islanders donated generously to victims of the earthquakes in Chile and Haiti. The final amount contributed for the Haiti Earthquake Appeal and forwarded to the Disaster Appeal Committee in UK was £11,243.64. The Falkland Islands Government donated £5,000 to the Haiti Appeal and £5,000 to the Chile Earthquake Appeal Fund, which to date has raised over £25,000.

Largest Team Taking Part

The Falkland Islands Overseas Games Association (FIGOA) plans to take its largest team yet to the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi in October 2010, with a team likely to number fifteen athletes covering three disciplines: shooting, badminton and lawn bowls.

FIGOA is very much looking forward to providing the team members with all the support they require to compete to the best of their ability and to meet the very substantial challenges ahead.

Diary Dates

14 June

Liberation Day

24 June

United Nations Special Committee on Decolonisation (C24)

2-9 July

Falkland Islands Defence Force Combat Shooting Team compete at Bisley

31 July - 7 August

Girl Guides attend Centenary International Camp in UK

First De-mining Campaign Almost Completed

A football match was held on the Sapper Hill minefield on 25 March, as de-mining experts demonstrated confidence in their work to the local community. A pilot clearance of four minefields in the Falkland Islands has almost been completed by British company BACTEC and a team of Zimbabwean de-miners, who were joined by a small team of Lebanese de-miners in February. The four target areas selected - Minefield 25 at Goose Green, Minefield 8 (West) at Fox Bay, Minefield 25 at Sapper Hill and Minefield 8 at Surf Bay - have all been safely cleared. Clearance has also started on a final section at Surf Bay, which is expected to contain 16 anti-tank mines.

As a signatory to the Ottawa Convention, the United Kingdom is required to remove and destroy all landmines on its sovereign territory, although there have not been any civilian injuries associated with landmines since the 1982 conflict.

New CBFSAI



Commodore Philip Thicknesse, the new Commander British Forces South Atlantic Islands, arrived in the Falkland Islands in December 2009, having already served in the Islands in 1982. As well as continuing to develop the wind farm project which his predecessor, Air Commodore Gordon Moulds MBE, initiated and championed (see page 3), he is also looking forward to working on joint civilian/military projects and developing the Mount Pleasant base.

If you would prefer to receive Falklands Focus by email, please contact pa@falklands.gov.fk.

For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

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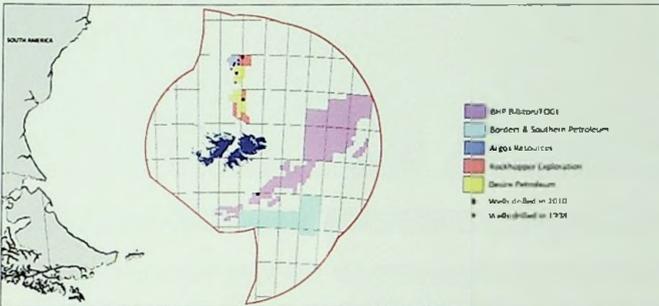
Falklands FOCUS

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 87

September 2010

Oil Exploration Programme Yields Mixed Results



Map of offshore exploration areas

A fifth company has joined the current oil exploration programme that is taking place in Falklands territorial waters. Argos Resources raised £22 million in a listing on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange in July. It intends to use the funds to collect seismic data from its licensed acreage, which is located adjacent to a licensed area in which Rockhopper Exploration has discovered oil, although it will be some time before it is

known whether this discovery will be commercially viable.

Over £170 million has now been raised by the five companies amongst private and institutional investors to fund the current oil exploration programme.

However, according to Phyl Rendell, Director of Mineral Resources, the exploration programme still has a long way to go. She said, "As expected, the current programme is yielding a mixed bag of results.

We have seen some discoveries, notably of gas and condensate at the Liz prospect, and oil at the Sea Lion prospect, but the Ernest well, the first drilled in the southernmost parts of the northern basin, was a dry hole, as was the Toroa well, the first to be drilled in the area south and east of the Islands.

All the companies engaged in the current programme remain committed to it and have collected a great deal of data that needs to be analysed in the coming months before any real conclusions can be drawn."

CONTENTS

Oil Update

MLAs at C24 Meeting

APPG

Focus on... EDS Consultation

Annual Reception

Success at Bisley

News in Brief

UN Committee Told: "Respect Our Rights"

Members of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonisation, heard that Falkland Islanders wish to continue to enjoy British Overseas Territory status and would like nothing better than to have a peaceful co-existence with Argentina.

These were the forthright messages given by two Members of the Islands' Legislative Assembly when they addressed the Committee, at its annual meeting held in New York in June.

The Hon. Gavin Short and the

Hon. Emma Edwards attended on behalf of the Islands, both gave speeches asking the Committee Members to respect the Falkland Islanders' right to self determination.

Representatives from the Islands have attended the Committee meeting every year since 1983.

Copies of the two speeches to the Committee can be downloaded from the Falkland Islands Government website: <http://www.falklands.gov.fk/news/2010/06>

Falklands All Party Parliamentary Group 'As Strong As Ever'

A meeting was held on 6th July to reconvene the UK Falklands Islands All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) and to elect new officers. Despite the many changes in membership, the APPG remains a powerful advocate for the Islands both in the UK Parliament and in other fora.

The Group's new Chairman is Derek Twigg MP (Lab), a former Minister for Veterans at the MOD, who visited the Islands in 2007. He took over from Sir Nicholas Winterton MP (Con), who retired at the General Election this year and who had chaired the Group since 1997. Sir Nicholas succeeded Sir Michael Shersby MP (Con), who had served as Chairman since 1981.

According to Sukey Cameron MBE, the Falkland Islands

Government's UK Representative, who works closely with the APPG, having just three Chairmen in thirty years has given the Group "both stability and real clout."

The Group's Vice Chairmen are Lord Jones of Cheltenham, a LibDem Peer who visited in 2008, David Crausby MP (Lab) who visited in 1999, and Ian Liddell-Grainger MP (Con). The Treasurer is Madeleine Moon MP (Lab) who visited in 2009 and the Secretary is Andrew Rosindell MP (Con) who last visited in 2005.

A former Vice Chairman, Hon. Lindsay Hoyle MP, has been elected as Deputy Speaker of the House and so, whilst he can be a member of an All Party Group, he can no longer serve as an Officer of the Group.

Focus On...

EDS Consultation

Interview with Sonny José, Head of Policy

In late 2008, the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands initiated a project in partnership with the local private sector to develop a long-term Economic Development Strategy (EDS) for the Islands. Since then groups and individuals have attended numerous consultative meetings to help the Falkland Islands Government to formulate the EDS and an important milestone was reached earlier this summer when a Strategy document was put out for public consultation.

The primary goal of the EDS is to "develop a sustainable economic future for the Falkland Islands". This far reaching initiative therefore embraces every aspect of life in the Islands, from ensuring that employment is available to all those who seek it and helping Islanders to maximise their incomes, to facilitating the growth of new industries and ensuring the Falkland Islands Government has the funds necessary to continue to provide public services.

A further aim is for the public, private and voluntary sectors to work closely together in ensuring that the Islands' economy continues to grow and thrive.

Sonny José, who heads up the Policy Unit is the Corporate Management Team member in charge of the project, explains why it is so important to the Islands.

Q. What is the EDS?

A. The EDS is essentially a road map that captures the steps that we need to take to develop a sustainable economic future for the Islands. The economic landscape of the Islands has been transformed in the last twenty five years and will change again. It is important, therefore, that any strategy represents a 'shared national vision', i.e. it's the result of an inclusive and cooperative approach.

Q. What does the EDS cover?

A. The Strategy comprises two parts. Part A (industry assessment and 'scene-setting') has already been presented to the public (in September 2009). The recent Consultation Period covered Part B, where we list specific targets and the proposed strategies needed to reach those targets.

These objectives cover every aspect of the Islands economy and are split into five main industry sectors: Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism, Services and New Industries.

Q. What has happened during the Consultation Period?

A. We have encouraged as many people as possible to read and comment on the document. We've organised a series of meetings as well as a public presentation. We believe that the more people that contribute to its development, the more likely we are to end up with a strategy that people can understand, believe in and, most importantly, support.

Q. What happens at the end of the Consultation Period?

A. This closed on 10th September 2010. We'll then review all the feedback received and, if necessary, amend the strategies to reflect those inputs. We'll then start work on some more specific action planning. At this stage, the Falkland Islands Government and the private sector can start to implement the agreed strategy contained in an Annual Economic Action Plan.

The EDS document can be downloaded from the Falkland Islands Government website: <http://www.falklands.gov.fk/news/2010/07>



Hydroponic Market Garden



Floating Interim Port and Storage System (FIPASS)

Baroness Thatcher is Guest of Honour at Annual Reception



Sukey Cameron introducing Baroness Thatcher to Islander Zoran Zuvic

Baroness Thatcher received a rousing welcome from guests when she attended the Falkland Islands Government's Annual Reception, which took place in the Great Hall at Lincoln's Inn on 16th June. Several Government Ministers and the Governor Designate, Mr Nigel Haywood CVO (see accompanying story), were amongst over two hundred guests at the event.

In her speech, the UK Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE, told the guests that: "The Government's message is simple and unequivocal. We are a distinct community with our own identity and separate government. We have the right to self determination, the right to decide our own future, unhindered by any interference from any other government; our expressed, democratic wish is to remain British. It is time the Argentine Government accepted that"

Team Success at Bisley

Host of medals at Bisley for Defence Force

The Falkland Islands Defence Force (FIDF) competed in the HM Forces Centre Skill at Arms Meeting, 24th June – 8th July. The team of eight was the smallest international team taking part in the training and competitions. The team consisted of two new shooters Pte Samantha Brownlee and Pte Lucas Biggs, who joined Maj Peter Biggs, Capt Derek Clarke, Capt Andrew Brownlee, Cpl Dustin Gilson-Clarke, L/Cpl Daniel Biggs and Pte Zoran Zuvic. The team won many medals over the 14-day event including four gold and 16 silver. Support was provided by Pte Caris Stevens. Despite the size of the team, the Falklands proved victorious and plan to return to Bisley next year to expand on their success.



FIDF Shooting Team

All change at Government House

After just over four years in post, His Excellency Mr Alan Huckle is retiring. He and his wife leave the Islands in September.

Mr Huckle is being replaced by Mr Nigel Haywood CVO, who takes up his post in October. Mr Haywood joined the Foreign Office in 1983 and previously served as Consul General in Basra, Iraq and, before that,



Mr Nigel Haywood CVO

Ambassador in Tallinn, Estonia. He has recently completed an MSc in biodiversity at the University of Bournemouth and enjoys fly fishing and marathon running as hobbies. Mr Haywood, who is looking forward to his posting, said: "I am pleased to be coming to the Islands at such an important time. Although I expect the opportunities and challenges of oil exploration to be a major theme, I look forward to working with the Islanders on all aspects of economic development, from fisheries and agriculture through to tourism. As you might expect from my recent

studies I am particularly interested in the rich biological diversity of the Islands. Managing and conserving it sensitively, while balancing it with the needs of a developing economy, will be crucial. On a personal level, I look forward to spending as much time travelling around and meeting people as possible. I have always felt that time spent behind a desk is time wasted!"

Government House also has a new First Secretary, Mr Ric Nye, who replaced Mr Paul Martinez in June this year.

News in Brief...

Girl Guides in London



The Guides outside Houses of Parliament

Eight Falkland Islands Girl Guides and their two team leaders, made the 16,000 mile round-trip to attend Centenary Camp, at Harewood House in Leeds earlier this summer. The group have been fundraising for 18 months organising a variety of events; children's discos, bazaars, raffles, dinner dances, sponsored activities and organising refreshments at Farmer's Week and variety shows to raise the £20,000 needed for the trip.

The Centenary Camp event was held from 31st July – 7th August and the story of the girls' travels quickly spread round the camp when they were featured in the camp's newsletter. Before the group left, Christine Scipio-O'Dean, Branch Commissioner, said, "We're extremely excited to be taking part in the Camp; it is a once in a lifetime opportunity."

One of the Girl Guides explained, "I am looking forward to the activities and making lots of new friends from around the world."

After completing the Centenary Camp, the group travelled to attend a second camp at Waddow Hall in Lancashire and then travelled to London for some sightseeing.

FITB Exhibit at Birdfair

The Falkland Islands Tourist Board (FITB) exhibited at the UK's largest birding event to showcase the beautiful birds of the Falklands. Louise Taylor, Marketing Officer of FITB and colleagues, manned the stand throughout the three-day exhibition, which took place in Rutland, UK from 20th – 22nd August.



FITB at Birdfair

Falkland GCSE Success

GCSE students this year have achieved the best exam results in the Islands since 1992. Over 81% of the Year 11 students gained at least five A* - C grades which is far greater than the equivalent UK figure of 69.1%. Twelve students won places at Peter Symonds College and Chichester College in the UK.

A Cricket World first for the three Falklands in Scotland

A cricketing first took place in July when Falkland Cricket Club (FCC) Fife played their namesakes from Newbury Berkshire, and the Falkland Islands Cricket Association (FICA) took part in the Festival of the Three Falklands Cricket Week. It was the first time that the three 'Falkland' teams had ever met, creating a 'triangular tournament'.

The week-long competition took place from 19th - 23rd July. It formed the centre-piece of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Scottish Falkland Cricket Club who play in Division One of the Scottish National League.

The event saw the trio of teams contest the Stanley Services Cup – another first on Scottish turf – at Scroggie Park, with the Falkland Islands claiming the Drysdale Cup. The Berkshire and South Atlantic teams have met twice before, first competing for the trophy in 2007. The Berkshire team travelled to the Falklands to successfully defend the trophy in March 2009.



Falkland Islands Community School

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