



Falklands Focus

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 88

May 2011

The Falklands celebrate the Royal Wedding

To commemorate the Royal Wedding of HRH Prince William with Miss Catherine Middleton, a gift of £1,000, from the People and Government of the Falkland Islands, was made to a charitable fund set up by HRH Prince William of Wales, and specified for support to service personnel and their families. Additionally, under the Falklands Conservation 'Adopt a Penguin' Scheme, two king penguins at Volunteer Point – aptly named Will and Kate – have been adopted by the Falkland Islands Government as a gift for the Royal couple.

The Pobjoy Mint have produced a commemorative coin, featuring the Royal couple, and a special



Picture Creative Direction

stamp has been released to mark event; the Falkland Islands Government has given each school child in the Islands a first day cover as a momento of the occasion.

The Hon. Sharon Halford, MLA attended the wedding as the Islands' representative, with her husband, John and an all day 'street party' was held in Stanley to celebrate the event.

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Steady Start to the Squid Season



Picture: Jenny Smith

Director of Natural Resources for the Falkland Islands Government's Fisheries Department, John Barton MBE, has indicated that there has been a steady start to this year's Illex squid fishing season. More than 30

Taiwanese jiggers arrived in Stanley Harbour to signal the start of the fishing season. Around 90 squid jiggers have taken up licenses, representing the highest level of interest in the Illex fishery for a number of years.

After two years of low Illex abundance (2009 and 2010), the scientists at the Fisheries Department had not expected a quick recovery of the stock. However, the larger size of squid in 2010 may have resulted in more eggs being produced.

Additionally, survival of juvenile squid has been helped by prevailing water temperatures, which has resulted in an increase in the Illex stock. In recent months the northerly running Falkland Current has been less intense, allowing an inflow of warmer shelf water into the northern part of Falkland waters. Illex squid have migrated south with the warmer water to the point where it overlaps with the valuable Loligo squid resource.

So far this year, the fishery has taken in excess of 50,000 tons of Illex, verifying the increase in stock. Squid accounts for around 75% of annual catches in the Falkland Islands and netted the Islands over £7 million from license sales in 2010.

Update On... Oil

Since the revival of the hydrocarbons exploration programme in Falkland Islands waters, which began in 2010, a total of nine wells have been drilled using Diamond Offshore Drilling's semi-submersible, Ocean Guardian. This brings the total number of wells drilled in the Falkland Islands Offshore Area to 15, which includes six wells drilled in 1998.

Ocean Guardian will continue to drill exploration and appraisal wells for Rockhopper Exploration and Desire Petroleum in the North Falkland Basin, in a programme which is currently expected to last until late 2011. Drilling activity is set to extend into 2012 following Borders & Southern Petroleum signing a contract with Ocean Rig UDW, in November 2010, for the provision of mobile drilling services. The rig is expected to be mobilised from West Africa to the South Falkland Basin in late 2011 to commence a two-well drilling programme. In addition to these wells, the rig contract has provision for up to three further 'option' wells.

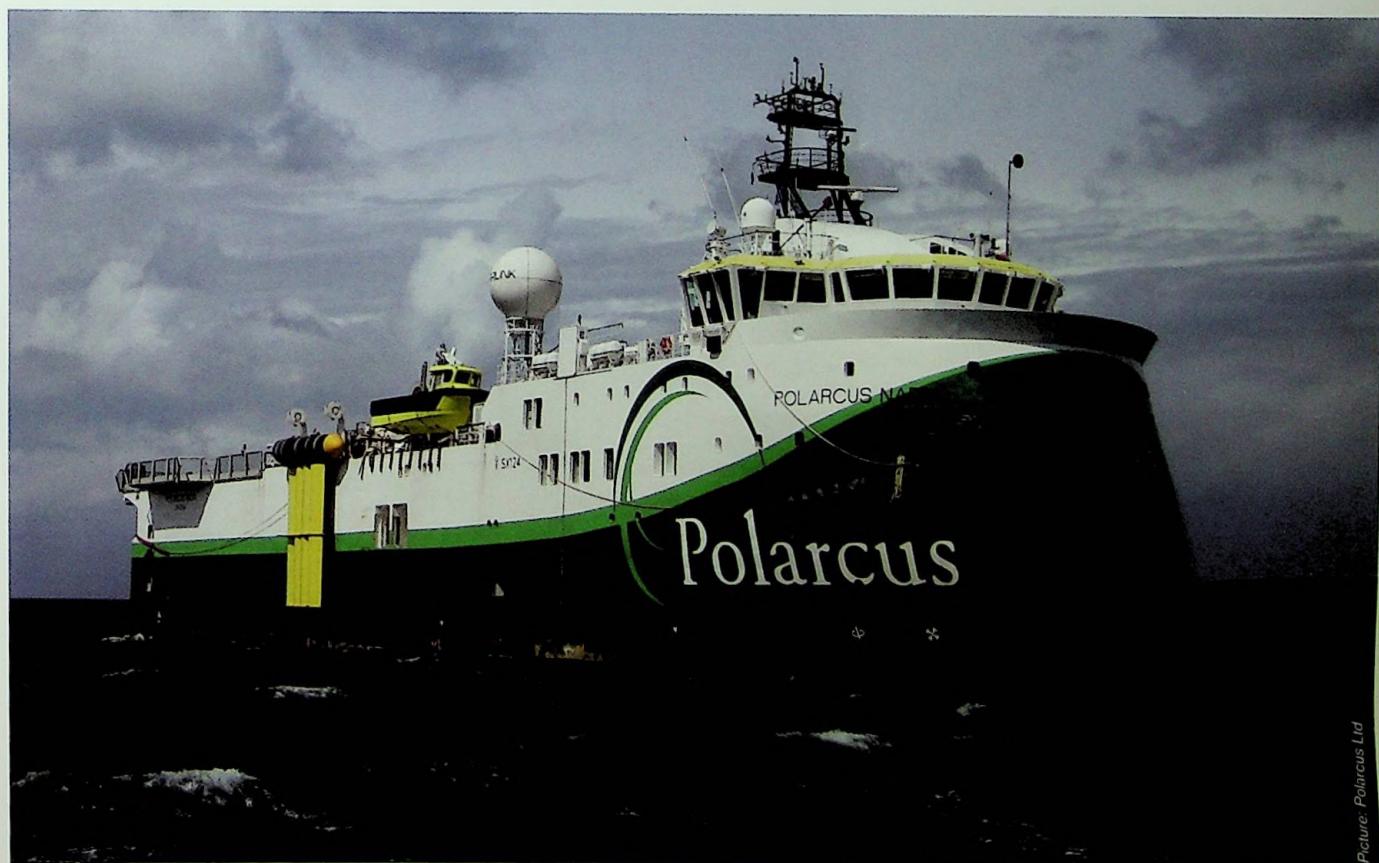
In May 2010, Rockhopper Exploration made an oil discovery at its Sea Lion well, which was subsequently successfully tested in September 2010. The company is currently conducting an appraisal drilling programme in order to further analyse this prospect. In January 2011, Rockhopper Exploration and the Falkland Islands Government agreed the limits of a Discovery Area around the Sea Lion well, with an effective backdated start date of 15th April 2010.

The agreed Discovery Area covers the southern part of the greater Sea Lion fan complex.

Under Falkland Islands legislation, operating companies must declare a Discovery Area following a hydrocarbons discovery. The company concerned then has five years in which to conduct further work in order to fully appraise the discovery.

Activities in the Falkland Islands Offshore Area also continue apace in the form of seismic data acquisition. The North Falkland Basin operators, Argos Resources, Desire Petroleum and Rockhopper Exploration, have contracted Polarcus Ltd to undertake extensive seismic survey operations through the use of two vessels in the North Falkland Basin. In addition to the 3D seismic data, significant environmental data is being acquired by marine mammal and seabird observers who have been placed on-board both vessels for the duration of the surveys. The data collected will be extremely useful to offshore operators, the Falkland Islands Government and other stakeholders such as Falklands Conservation, both in terms of enhancing overall understanding of the environment, and in the planning of future activities.

The Falkland Islands Government continues to work closely with British Geological Survey, the Department of Energy and Climate Change, and the Health and Safety Executive in respect of offshore hydrocarbons matters.



Polarcus Nadia

Islanders Respond to Series of Global Disasters

The Falkland Islands have demonstrated their solidarity with the victims of natural disasters across the globe. With the earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan, along with fatal floods in Australia and Brazil, and the 2010 Chilean earthquake, it has been a tumultuous period for a number of nations.

Responding to the floods in both Brazil and Australia, the Falkland Islands Government sent letters of condolence to newly elected President Rousseff of Brazil and Prime Minister Gillard of Australia, signed by the Honourable Dick Sawle MLA.

Following the 2010 Chilean earthquake Islanders dug deep after the setting up of the Falkland Islands Chilean Earthquake Appeal. As a result of tireless fundraising and the generosity of Islanders, just over £26,000 was raised.

With a significant number of Chileans living in the Falkland Islands, the disaster was felt very keenly by a great number of the Islands' residents. It was decided that the funds would be sent to Chile to be spent on projects helping children and the elderly, whose homes had been destroyed by the tremor.

A separate disaster relief fund was set up to raise money following the earthquake in New Zealand in February 2011.



Picture: Celia Short

Celia Short handing the cheque over to HE the Governor, Alan Huckle

Focus On...

Rural Development Strategy – Investing In Camp

In 2008, when 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, it also confirmed its vision to ensure

that Camp, the rural areas outside of the Islands' capital, Stanley, makes a strong contribution to, and benefits from, the growth of the Falkland Islands economy. Three years on, the Rural Development Strategy (RDS) is bringing that vision life.



Cape Dolphin farm

The RDS aims to identify and implement the actions, policies and investment required for sustainable growth in Camp.

Camp plays an important role in the social and economic fabric of the Falklands, underpinning important areas of economic activity such as tourism and agriculture. The area is also steeped in history, home to various small settlements such as Fox Bay, Goose Green, Darwin and Port Howard.

While the EDS is designed to work at a national level to identify economic opportunities, review existing national policies and attract and encourage inward investment in the Falkland Islands, the RDS will work to exploit these opportunities and help to ensure that Government policy and investment decisions contain a rural dimension and

reflect those issues and hurdles particular to Camp.

The strategic objectives of the RDS are to increase Gross Value Added - the value of goods and services produced in the area - improve national infrastructure, increase the Camp population, strengthen the social fabric of Camp, and manage and conserve the natural environment.

Nuala Knight, Rural Development Strategy Coordinator commented, "The RDS is an important step in ensuring Camp remains a vital element in the Falklands' economic development journey. With appropriate investment and focus, we can help create and harness exciting opportunities for Camp."

For more information on the Rural Development Strategy, visit www.ruraldevelopment.gov.fk

News in Brief...

Falkland Islands Government appoints new Attorney General



Mark Lewis

The Falkland Islands Government has announced the appointment of a new Attorney General to replace the outgoing post holder, David Pickup. Mark Lewis, who took up his post in March, comes from a very strong public sector legal background. Formerly based in Torquay, Devon, Mr Lewis was previously an Audit Solicitor at the Audit Commission.

Prior to his role at the Audit Commission, Mr Lewis was the Head of Law and Administration at Torbay Council. Other key roles have seen him provide legal expertise to colleagues on an in-house basis, through to advising auditors on a wide range of public law issues across government and health bodies.

A keen archer and shooter, Mr Lewis is very much looking forward to the new challenge. "I expect no two days to be the same! The Islands have a reputation for being a friendly, welcoming place and I look forward to making a home there and joining in Island life and enjoying all that the Islands have to offer", said Mr Lewis.

Launched: Falkland Islands TV

In a joint venture between KTV Limited and Stanley Services Limited, Falkland Islands TV (FITV) was launched in April.

The aim of the new TV Station will, initially, be to provide news programmes once a week, concentrating on local issues. The Media School of Bournemouth University trained the two locally employed staff.

Falklands at International Games

The Falkland Islands took their largest ever team of 15 competitors to the Commonwealth Games in Delhi which took place 3 – 14 October 2010, and competed in a number of events, including, Badminton, three disciplines of Shooting, and Lawn Bowls. Despite some poor publicity about the Delhi facilities the team was well housed and the venues proved to be excellent.

The badminton team of two men and three ladies acquitted themselves well in all competitions, with the men's doubles team of Doug Clark and Michael Brownlee taking a set from the Ugandan team – a first for the Falklands. The

shooters in full bore rifle, air pistol and clay target enjoyed mixed fortunes, but largely performed up to expectation. The lawn bowls team of George Paice and Gerald Rieve provided the competition highlights for the Falklands with wins over Samoa and Guernsey in the pool matches. Full Games results are

available on the Commonwealth Games Federation website www.thecgf.com

In June a team of around 50 will travel to the Isle of Wight for the XIV NatWest Island Games, representing the Islands in Athletics, Badminton, Football, Golf, Shooting and Swimming.



Falklands team in Delhi

Picture: Derek Patterson

Record Footfall for Falklands

The population of the Falkland Islands briefly trebled in early February after a record-breaking day of cruise ship activity. With three ships docking outside Stanley and 6,000 passengers discharged ashore, the Islands enjoyed a bumper day for the tourism industry. Many cruise ship passengers took advantage of tours to beauty spots such as Gypsy Cove, which was visited by over 1,200 people. Those not on organised trips toured Stanley on foot, with local businesses enjoying a brisk trade; gift shops in particular dealt with record numbers of customers.

Local tour company Sullivan Shipping also reported a healthy uptake in their excursions offer, with over 1,800 of the cruise ship passengers pre-booking tours.

The number of passengers landing on the day beat the previous record set in February 2009, which saw the arrival of 4,053 visitors.



Cruise ship Infinity

in the creation of a completely new company, born from this joint venture. We are pleased to be offering a new service in a totally new sector for the Islands and in doing so hope to create a new, dynamic industry in the Falkland Islands."



Paula Fownes presents the news

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



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



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Falklands Representatives Head to the UN, Washington and Canada

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), Hon. Dick Sawle and Hon. Roger Edwards travelled to the United States and Canada on an official visit in June. The MLAs' primary reason for the North American trip was to address the annual United Nations Committee of 24 (Special Committee on Decolonization), a group that convenes to discuss the future of non-independent territories. Taking up the invitation to address the delegates, they used the opportunity to reinforce the Falkland Islands position.

They reaffirmed the resolve of the Islands Government and people to pursue their right to self-determination, calling upon the Committee to respect this fundamental right, as well as the principals of the UN.

The Hon. Roger Edwards used the address to invite the Chair of the Committee to the Islands. "Mr Chairman, I would now like to invite you, publicly, to visit the Falkland Islands to see for yourself our unique way of life and freedoms that we enjoy." Whilst the Falkland Islands Government had invited the former Committee Chair to the Islands, following his visit to Argentina at the end of last year, the invitation was never responded to.

Events in New York were played out in front of a backdrop of increasing rhetoric emanating from Buenos Aires. One of the key areas that both MLAs wanted to provide clarity on was the historical element to the territorial dispute in the South Atlantic. The Hon. Dick Sawle was unequivocal in his position:

"It is important to us that we are clear with our history – where we came from, who we are now and the way in which we have developed. It is also equally important that world leaders realise that the Argentine claim over the Falklands, which is based on the myth that we expelled an Argentine population in 1833, is just that – a myth with no substance in truth whatsoever."

Alongside their engagements with the United Nations, both MLAs undertook an extensive schedule of activities, including meetings with Foreign Office officials based in the British Embassy in Washington, as well as members of the Obama Administration and opposition figures. The Hon. Dick Sawle said "it was very useful indeed to be able to meet with some key



MLAs with Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner

Picture: The office of Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner

individuals and put our arguments across in person. The reception that we received was warm and supportive."

The Hon. Roger Edwards made a special trip to meet Parliamentarians north of the border in Canada, reporting that his series of meetings in Ottawa were "worth more than 1,000 emails." As a result of the activities in North America, the Hon. Dick Sawle was invited onto the BBC's Daily Politics programme to set out the Islands' position.

Update On... Oil

Throughout 2010 and into 2011, the economy of the Falkland Islands has benefited from the revival of the offshore hydrocarbons exploration programme. By the end of the 2nd quarter of 2011, twelve wells had been drilled in Falkland Islands waters using Diamond Offshore Drilling's semi-submersible, Ocean Guardian for operators BHP Billiton, Desire Petroleum and Rockhopper Exploration.

This brings the total number of wells drilled in the Falkland Islands Offshore Area to eighteen, which includes six wells drilled in 1998. BHP Billiton's Tora well was the first to be drilled in the South Falkland Basin.

In May 2010, Rockhopper Exploration made an oil discovery at its Sea Lion well. This was

successfully tested in September 2010, and in January 2011, Rockhopper Exploration agreed with the Falkland Islands Government the limits of a Discovery Area around the Sea Lion well. Three appraisal wells have now been drilled to analyse the Sea Lion prospect. In June 2011, Rockhopper Exploration conducted a fully engineered flow test of the upper Sea Lion sands, utilising vacuum insulated tubing and a downhole electric submersible pump. The company announced that oil had flowed in commercially viable quantities at a stabilised rate of 5,508 barrels of oil per day over a 48 hour period.

Ocean Guardian will continue to drill exploration and appraisal wells in the North Falkland Basin in a programme which is currently expected to last into the 4th quarter of 2011. In the meantime,



Captain Allan Jensen
Ocean Guardian

Argos Resources, Desire Petroleum and Rockhopper Exploration are analysing extensive 3D seismic data acquired on their behalf in the early part of 2011 by the survey vessels Polarcus Asima and Polarcus Nadia, to help them to identify further leads in their acreage. Valuable data on marine mammals and seabirds was also acquired from observers stationed on the seismic vessels.

Ocean Rig UDW's Leiv Eiriksson is expected to arrive in Falkland Islands waters towards the end of the 4th quarter of 2011. This harsh environment rig will be mobilising from Greenland to conduct a four-well drilling programme in the South Falkland

Basin for Borders and Southern Petroleum and Falkland Oil and Gas. Local companies are completing a second on-shore base to support this new drilling campaign. In another exciting development, Canadian company CHC Helicopters has recently established a base in Stanley to service the rigs.

Always alert to its twin aims of developing new revenue streams while protecting the environment, the Falkland Islands Government has set up two new bodies. These are intended to foster cooperation between all relevant stakeholders, including the oil and gas industry, environmentalists and the commercial sector. The Offshore Hydrocarbons Environmental Forum will co-ordinate environmental research connected to the exploration campaign, while the Oil and Gas Development Group will seek to maximise commercial opportunities for Falkland Islanders arising out of current and future industry activity.

Focus On...

Biodiversity Strategy – Building a Greener Future for the Islands

The quality of the environment and the biodiversity it supports, are an important part of the Islands' identity and underpin the wealth of the economy. The land, oceanic ecosystems, habitats, wildlife and vegetation are diverse and of international importance. The Government Biodiversity Strategy provides a 20 year vision to ensure that the environmental future of the Islands is properly managed.

First created in 2008 with a ten year implementation plan, the vision of the Biodiversity Strategy is to "conserve and enhance the natural diversity, ecological



Gentoo penguin

processes and heritage of the Falkland Islands, in harmony with sustainable economic development."

The comprehensive strategy highlights key biodiversity threats which endanger the current environment. The report points to fifteen areas, that have been prioritised in terms of the likelihood of the threat occurring and its relative impact. Five have been rated as crucial due to frequency and impact, including: lack of awareness of environmental issues, uncertainty/lack of information, unsustainable accidental by-catch and invasive species, such as the Norway brown rats which have led to huge reductions of some bird species, and pollution.

The strategy also focuses on the action required to protect specific threatened species and habitats due to both their national and international importance. Those highlighted for comprehensive action planning include Mainland Tussac, Black-

browed Albatross, Striated Caracara and Cobb's Wren, as well as 22 threatened plants. The key activity within most action plans will be managing important sites through survey and assessment.

Following a full assessment of the current situation, the last section of the strategy sets out a framework of 38 action tasks which need to be collectively implemented over the next ten years to achieve the vision and goals and address the identified priority threats to biodiversity.

These action tasks are designed to:

Protect the general environment

Addresses processes that threaten the whole environment and are therefore focused island-wide and at the ecosystem level.

Protect priority species and habitats

Focuses on action required for priority species and habitats; these actions are species or site specific.

Protect our genetic resources

Targets the management and use of commercial benefits arising from the genetic resources of native species.

Drive the Biodiversity Strategy

Addresses the management and administrative tasks required to keep the strategy on track and progressing.

"The Biodiversity Strategy is a vital collaboration between Islanders, Government, conservation organisations and businesses" said Nick Rendell, Environmental Officer for the Falkland Islands Government. "The natural environment is every bit a part of the Falklands psyche and we are fortunate to live in one of the few places on earth where nature is both in abundance and treasured. This strategy provides the solid foundations to ensure that we act responsibly and implement the necessary safeguards to enable future generations to prosper."

Mike Summers re-elected to Legislative Assembly

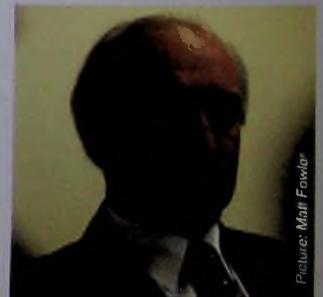
Former member of the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly, Hon. Mike Summers OBE, has made a return to Government after standing in a recent by-election in the Islands, triggered by the resignation of Glenn Ross. With a turnout of 51 percent of the vote, the Hon. Mr. Summers returned to Government, with 259 votes going his way, beating

his nearest rival, Steve Vincent who received 177 votes.

The Hon. Mike Summers had previously served as an MLA for 13 years, "I am delighted and pleased to be back in Government of the Islands," he said. Recent concerns over relations with Argentina are thought to have played a role in Mr. Summers' re-election, after being described as a "very good

statesman" by Mr. Vincent. Mr. Summers felt that this issue may have encouraged the electorate to "vote for common sense and experience."

Setting out his position in his manifesto, the Hon. Mike Summers referred to the need to talk directly to EU institutions, as well as the need for the Falkland Islands Government to respond confidently to Argentine rhetoric.



The Hon. Mike Summers OBE
MLA

Picture: Matt Fawcett

MPs Get Hands-on During Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme Visit

From 8th-15th May 2011, eleven UK MPs visited the Mount Pleasant military base in the Falkland Islands as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme (AFPS).

The Scheme - founded in 1989 by Sir Neil Thorne, a former Conservative MP, and sponsored by BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce and AgustaWestland - seeks to improve the quality of debate on military issues by providing MPs with hands-on experience of the role and functions of the Army, Navy and RAF.

During the week, the group took part in training exercises and visited the various elements of the forces based there, including HMS York. They also had the opportunity to meet with Members of the Legislative Assembly during a lunch at Government House in Stanley.

Those Members of Parliament who took part in the visit were: Andrew Bingham, Caroline Dinenage, Robert Felloo, Mark Garnier, Richard Graham, Andrew Griffiths, Simon Hart, Karl McCartney, Matthew Offord, Andrew Percy and Jon Woodcock.

Following his visit to the Islands, MP for Burton & Uttoxeter, Andrew Griffiths said: "The trip was a great opportunity to see the conditions that the military personnel live in. I learned not only that the Islanders are completely determined to remain British, but also how important the Islands are to the military."

Andrew Percy MP, Brigg & Goole added "I will never forget the time I spent in the Falklands and I have come away even prouder of the brave men and women who serve our country. I

was also privileged to be able to pay my respects to those who died during the Falklands Conflict. I will certainly be better informed when I take part in future debates in Parliament on defence issues."



Members of the Legislative Assembly with the visiting AFPS delegation

Picture: FIG

Island Games a success for Falkland Islands team

The 14th NatWest Island Games was held in the Isle of Wight from 26th June - 1st July. With 24 teams competing in 14 sports, there were over 3,000 competitors from islands around the UK (the Channel Islands, Ynys Mon, Scottish Isles, Isle of Man), Nordic Islands (Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Estonia) and Islands from the Caribbean, Mediterranean and Atlantic.

A team of 43 from the Falkland Islands took part in badminton, golf, football, shooting, swimming and athletics. The event enjoyed a high profile opening, with London 2012 Olympic Games figurehead Lord Coe getting

proceedings underway.

There were creditable performances from a number of Falklands competitors. The golf team won a Silver Certificate with Troyd Bowles winning the individual Silver Certificate, Glenn Ross winning the Bronze Certificate including a Falklands record 75 in the first round, and Sarah Bowles finishing 17th out of 41 in the ladies. The badminton team led by veteran Doug Clark won a number of games, with some excellent results too from the youngsters. Athletes, shooters and lone swimmer, Sorrel Pompett-Robertson (14), all performed with distinction, and the football



team concluded a great week by winning the Small Islands Cup beating Alderney 3-0.

"Getting to the games this year was challenging because of ash from the Chilean volcano", said team manager Mike Summers,

"but our team were once again a credit to the Falkland Islands, with improved performances in all events."

The next NatWest Island Games will take place in 2013 in Bermuda.

Q&A with Phyl Rendell, Director of Mineral Resources

As she approaches her final few months in Government, we talk to Phyl Rendell about her time in office.

Q What has been your most rewarding experience in the Department?

A I would say, seeing rigs returning to the Falkland Islands after more than a decade promoting the area and supporting the work of licensees in preparation for a second exploration campaign. Desire Petroleum took the initiative by contracting Diamond Offshore's rig, Ocean Guardian to drill in the Northern Basin and now Borders & Southern Petroleum have secured a contract for the Leiv Eiriksson to drill wells in the Southern Basin. It has been extremely rewarding working with all our licensees in order to secure the approvals required for them to drill here.

Q What has been your biggest challenge in your time in post as Director?

A Keeping industry interest alive after the 1998 drilling programme ended. Although it was a successful campaign, oil prices fell as low as \$11 a barrel (which is hard to believe now) and frontier areas like the Falklands struggled to keep exploration progressing.

Q There were oil discoveries made in Falklands waters in the 1990s, do you think that the current activities are another false dawn?

A No I don't. With around twenty wells drilled in the Northern Basin and coordinated coverage of high spec 3D seismic data over the area, there is now a far greater understanding of the geology of the basin. Rockhopper Exploration's Sea Lion discovery and appraisal programme has confirmed the presence of quantities of oil and gas. I am confident that exploration will continue over time in order to identify additional fields. And now we have Borders & Southern and Falklands Oil & Gas starting drilling in the Southern Basin, so it is a very exciting time.

Q What do you think the future holds for oil exploration in the Falklands?

A It is very difficult to predict but I would suggest that activities offshore will continue in order to establish what resources we have. It is too early to be sure that we will have a production phase but exploration activities are a huge benefit to the Islands' economy and more and more local companies are providing an excellent standard of services to the oil companies, which is a credit to them all.

Q During your tenure, how have you seen the current exploration activities affect Island life?

A The effect has been very positive for everyone as jobs and business opportunities have been abundant. This has eased the Islands through the global recession and helped the Falkland Islands Government to achieve a balanced budget and avoid cutting services as is happening in other parts of the world. Stanley's facilities have been busy when rig crews have been delayed due to bad weather but people have been very understanding.

Q What one piece of advice would you give to your successor, Stephen Luxton?

A This is not an easy question because Stephen is a very experienced person and knows both the industry and Island politics very well. He's bound to be more connected than I am but don't forget your mobile phone as you just don't know when you will get a call regarding rig activities!

Q What do you have planned for after you leave in December?

A I've not given it much thought as I'm still fully focused on the job as we prepare for arrival of the Leiv Eiriksson but I will be going out to Bleaker Island for the rest of the summer and helping out with our farm and tourism business out there.

Falkland Islander Stephen Luxton has been appointed to succeed Mrs. Rendell as the Director of Mineral Resources; he will take up the post at the end of December 2011.



News in Brief...

Falkland Islands Government Annual Reception

On 14th June, the Falkland Islands Government held its Annual Reception at the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, London. Guests included MPs, Peers, Legislative Assembly Members, former Governors and Commanders of British Forces, visiting Islanders, Falkland Islands students, FCO and MoD personnel, and members of UK-based Falkland Islands groups. The event also attracted Ministerial interest, with Foreign Office Minister, Jeremy Browne MP and Ministry of Defence Minister, Gerald Howarth MP in attendance.

In a speech to guests, Falkland Islands Government Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE, underlined that the Islands are entering a crucial period in their economic development, and called on the UK Government to continue to work in partnership with the Islands in order to create an even more stable economic base from which to grow.

"We intend to build upon our economic successes so that we can maintain economic independence and sustain our quality of life. While economic growth is required for its own sake, it has wider-reaching benefits: with economic strength, we will be less vulnerable to

external political pressure and free to determine our future."

A message from Her Majesty the Queen was also read out to guests and was followed by the

Loyal Toast. The Band of the Grenadier Guards then Beat the Retreat on the lawn outside, rounding off another successful Annual Reception for all involved.



Hon Roger Edwards MLA, Ms Sukey Cameron MBE, Minister of State at the FCO, Jeremy Browne MP, Hon Dick Sawle MLA

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association celebrates a century

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) celebrates its centenary this year. To mark the occasion, all members of the CPA plan to undertake special activities in honour of the anniversary. Falkland Islands MLAs agreed that a commemorative stamp should be issued in the Falkland Islands to mark the occasion.

The Falkland Islands Stamp Advisory Committee commissioned the stamp which was issued in August. As part of the events to mark the centenary, the 57th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held in London at the end of July; the Hon. Dick Sawle represented the Falkland Islands. "I was very proud to

represent my country amongst colleagues and friends at the annual conference," he said. "As MLAs, we were particularly pleased with the commemorative stamp design as a genuine symbol of our continued commitment to democracy." The CPA seminar of British and Mediterranean islands is due to take place in the Falkland Islands in 2013.



New Commander of British Forces South Atlantic Islands Appointed

Brigadier Bill Aldridge CBE has been appointed as the Commander of British Forces South Atlantic Islands (BFSAI).

As Commander, Brigadier Aldridge is in overall charge of all Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force personnel and assets in the region, and will ensure that UK Forces there are manned and equipped to fulfill their mission.

Since 2008, Brigadier Aldridge, commanded 42 (Northwest) Brigade, which saw him lead military relief efforts during the devastating floods in Cumbria in November 2009, including leading and supervising the Brigade through the construction of an emergency footbridge in

Workington. He has described the work as one of the team's most important achievements in recent times.

Aside from his work in the aftermath of the Cumbrian floods, Brigadier Aldridge also oversaw the deployment of Reservists to Iraq, Cyprus and Afghanistan.

"My new role in the Falkland Islands has a very real and present military mission and lies at the end of an extremely long communications and supply chain," he said. "It will be a great challenge, but such challenges are the reason I joined the Army."

Brigadier Aldridge took over from Commodore Phillip Thicknesse RN in June.

New evidence discovered of Falkland Islands Wolf

The history of the now extinct Falkland Islands Wolf – commonly referred to as the Warrah – has been shrouded in mystery. Thought to be the only land mammal native to the Falkland Islands, it has generated much discussion amongst historians and scientists the world over.

Frags of bone found by Dale

Evans, a 13 year old Falkland Islander living on West Falkland, have been shown to be over 1,000 years old after carbon dating testing confirmed that the Warrah predates the human settlement of the Falkland Islands by hundreds of years.

A team from Liverpool Museum, led by Dr Robert Philpott, undertook a survey of a number

of sites on West Falkland. The team analysed a piece of jaw bone found by Dale and the sample revealed that it belonged to an animal that had died between the years of AD 860 and 1010, providing compelling evidence that the original inhabitants of the Islands were likely to have been land mammals.

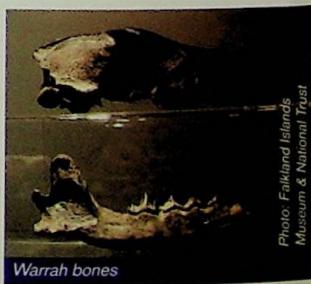


Photo: Falkland Islands Museum & National Trust

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Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



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Political visitors enjoy a Falklands welcome

The end of 2011 and the beginning of this year marked a particularly busy time in the Islands. Political visitors are regularly welcomed to the Falklands, however, the past few months have seen a significantly higher number of politicians of varying party persuasions make official visits and see Falkland Islands life for themselves.

In November 2011, a group of four British MPs spent several days in the Islands as part of a Falkland Islands Government (FIG) sponsored familiarisation visit; the Rt Hon Mark Francois (Con), Gemma Doyle (Lab), Ian Murray (Lab) and Philip Dunne (Con) were accompanied on their tour by Sukey Cameron MBE, the Falkland Islands Government UK Representative. Hosted by the Legislative Assembly the delegation met with representatives from the Falkland Islands Government and the private sector. The programme also included a visit to the headquarters of the British Forces and Sea Lion Island. They laid wreaths at the Liberation Monument in Stanley and were

the first customers at the new restaurant at Bluff Cove, Café Carancho, run by Hattie and Kevin Kilmartin.

Their visit came at a time of heightened tensions with Argentina, after a number of unilateral measures imposed by Buenos Aires had caused some observers to suggest that the Islands were under an economic blockade. The MPs were unequivocal in their support. "The Islanders are a very resilient people," said Mark Francois. "They are determined that they will determine their own future without any interference from a third party. Islanders clearly feel proud to be linked to Britain, and we all see that continuing very long into the future."

Other political figures to tour the Islands included US Republican Party Congressman, Jim Sensenbrenner and Universities and Science Minister, David Willetts MP. The Congressman, who visited in February, called for a cooling of Argentine rhetoric and confirmed that he supported the Islanders' clear right to self-determination. He cited Argentina's constitutional claim to



Picture: FIG

MPs visit in November: L to R: the Rt Hon Mark Francois, Philip Dunne, Ian Murray and Gemma Doyle

the Islands as evidence that the United Nations should listen carefully to Islanders' wishes, "rather than be treated to a Powerpoint presentation by Argentine Foreign Minister Timmerman, the UN should back up the self-determination of the Islanders," said Sensenbrenner.

David Willetts MP also visited in February, on his way to the British Antarctic Survey base in Rothera. Whilst in the Islands, Mr Willetts met with the Legislative Assembly and the Governor, Nigel Haywood CVO. He reiterated the British Government's position on the Islands, saying, "what matters is

the right of self-determination of the people in the Falklands".

Members of the Parliamentary Defence Select Committee, Thomas Docherty MP (Lab), the Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson MP (DUP), John Glen MP (Con), Dai Havard MP (Lab), Madeleine Moon MP (Lab), Penny Mordaunt MP (Con), Sandra Osborne MP (Lab) and Bob Stewart MP (Con), under the Chairmanship of James Arbuthnot MP (Con), spent four days in the Islands, meeting military personnel as well as Members of the Legislative Assembly and other Islanders. The Committee last visited in 1999.

Falklands tensions simmer again

The past few months have seen an increase in tension between the UK and Argentine Government over the issue of sovereignty. For Islanders, such tensions are nothing new, however the latest round of unilateral moves undertaken by Argentina have been designed to make everyday life difficult for Islanders.

Since the beginning of the year, the re-elected President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has promoted the Falkland Islands to the top of her agenda, making them something of a cause célèbre for her domestic audience. Measures such as banning Falkland flagged

vessels from Argentina and other South American ports, signalled the start of an ongoing campaign to isolate and marginalise the Falkland Islands, both politically and economically.

Other measures, including the official complaint to the United Nations by Argentina that the UK was "militarising the South Atlantic" were labelled "absurd" by the UK Ambassador to the UN, Sir Mark Lyall Grant. All of these measures, along with repeated rumours relating to the alleged plans to ban the weekly LAN flight to Chile from using Argentine airspace, have galvanised public opinion in the Islands.

With the 30th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Islands approaching, Islanders' have been confronted with increasing rhetoric and harassment from Buenos Aires. The people of the Islands mobilised to demonstrate their displeasure over Argentine actions in February, by organising a mile long convoy of vehicles that drove into Stanley in a blaze of Union Jacks and Falkland Islands flags.

The British Government meanwhile, has voiced its continued support in favour of the Islanders' pleas for other countries to respect their right to self-determination. Prime Minister, David Cameron, was

unequivocal: "We are rightly proud of the role Britain played in righting a profound wrong," the Prime Minister said in his written statement, "Britain remains staunchly committed to upholding the right of the Falkland Islanders, and of the Falkland Islanders alone, to determine their own future." British public opinion is also squarely behind retaining the status quo in the Islands. An ICM Guardian poll, published on 20th March 2012, revealed that 61% of British voters felt that the Islands should be 'defended at all costs', showing that despite 30 years passing since the Conflict, the strength of feeling on all sides, remains high.

30th anniversary commemorations

A number of events have been scheduled to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Islands in 1982. In the Islands, Liberation Day on 14th June, will be marked by a service in Christ Church Cathedral in Stanley, followed by a parade and remembrance ceremony at the Liberation Monument. A number of VIP guests have been invited to visit the Islands for this important occasion.

The Falkland Islands Government has also involved the local community in the production of a commemorative brochure, 'Our Islands, Our Home', which is dedicated to the men and women

of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and support personnel involved in the Liberation of the Islands. "The success of today's Falkland Islands is the legacy of your sacrifice. It is your legacy and we remain eternally grateful" notes the brochure's foreword.

Among many events being held in the United Kingdom, the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA82) unveiled a memorial, on Sunday 20th May, at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire.

In addition to the commemorations, the Falkland Islands Government is launching a new website and DVD, presenting the modern face of the Islands in the anniversary year.



Veterans of the Falkland Islands Defence Force march through Stanley.

Picture: Penguin News

An Islander's Perspective

Daniel Fowler, 30, was born in the Falkland Islands in 1982. He spent some of his formative years in Kiribati and Scotland, but grew up mostly in the Falkland Islands. After completing A-Levels and a degree in the UK, he returned home to work for the Falkland Islands Fisheries Department. He is currently studying for an MRes in Sustainable Aquaculture & Fisheries through his current work as a biologist.

"The Falkland Islands is a small country, but we still need a national-infrastructure like any other, just on a smaller scale. As a result, career opportunities are very diverse, and with a small pool of job-seekers, your chances of getting a role you want are higher than they would be elsewhere. It's much easier for young professionals to make their mark, as well as to change career options should they wish."

"Life in the Falklands runs at a more leisurely pace than the UK - most people are home from work by 5pm. We're not lazy or less-driven than the rest of the world, but things are far from the rat-race experienced elsewhere, possibly due to the lack of commuting - few people are more than a five minute drive from work!"

"I'd say we are more in touch with the environment than other places, if only because we're so immersed in it. From Stanley,

you are only ten minutes from wonderful beaches and penguin colonies, or rugged and windswept hills to the other side. Many would consider themselves to be wildlife lovers (or photographers!), and lots of people have vegetable gardens, or go fishing, or horse riding - outdoor hobbies are a part of life. "For Islanders, this year's Anniversary will be marked in the same way as it is every year. There will be a packed service at

the Cathedral, followed by a parade to the Liberation Monument, where a large crowd will have gathered for a remembrance ceremony. During the ceremony, wreaths are laid, readings are given, and we all take a few minutes to reflect on the sacrifices made in '82. Then, everyone will pile into the Town Hall for a reception and maybe a beer or two together, and then probably on to the Rose Bar. It's a very community-oriented day.

"In the next five years, the main thing we all want is to live our lives as Falkland Islanders without interference - though I'd settle for secure shipping and air links so that we can continue to invest in vital areas such as meat, wool and fish exports. If oil exploration continues, I'd like to see it done in a safe manner with utmost regard for the environment, not profit. Aside from that, there isn't much I'd change about life here."



Dan Fowler

Members of the Legislative Assembly – International Visits

Members of the Legislative Assembly continue to promote the Islands' position overseas. Recent visits to London, Brussels and the Caribbean, have ensured that the voices of Falkland Islanders are heard on the international stage.

In January this year, the 10th Overseas Countries and Territories - EU Forum was held in Brussels. The Falkland Islands delegation - comprising the Hon Roger Edwards MLA, the Hon Sharon Halford MLA, Jamie Fotheringham (Head of Policy),

and Sukey Cameron MBE (UK Representative) - joined some 100 delegates from 22 overseas countries and territories (OCTs), including Anguilla, Curacao, Greenland and St. Pierre et Miquelon, to present a joint position on trade issues and regional integration. The OCTs share a number of mutual interests and discussions at the Forum reinforced the rights of OCTs to a voice in the European policymaking process.

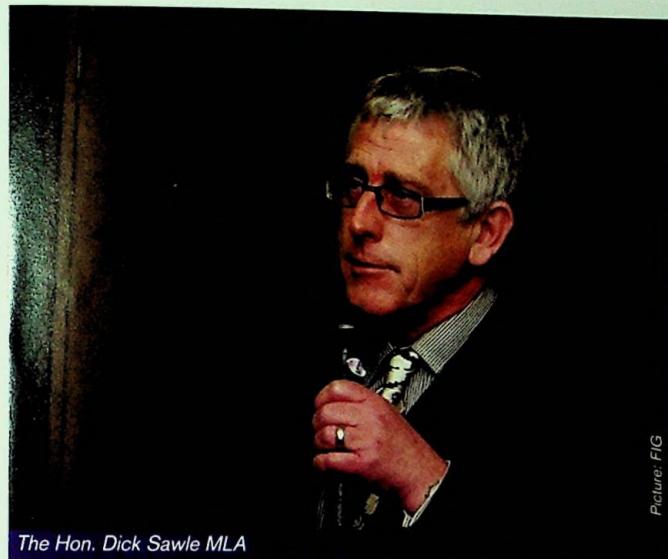
During his speech to the Forum, the Hon Roger Edwards MLA urged the EU Commission to ensure that the rights of citizens in OCTs are not compromised in relations with countries and regional bodies, especially at this time of heightened pressure and trade sanctions against the Falkland Islands from Argentina.

Following the Forum, MLAs Halford and Edwards visited Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia

and St. Vincent & Grenadines, to continue the process of ensuring that Caribbean countries are aware of the situation in the Islands and gain support for the right of self-determination.

In March, the Hon Dr Barry Elsby MLA attended the 61st Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure. The five day event brought together more than 60 newly-elected parliamentarians and early-career clerks from across the Commonwealth for an engaging and challenging exploration of different legislative systems.

The following week, the Hon Ian Hansen MLA attended the 2nd Westminster Workshop focusing on the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The Workshop brought together over 60 Commonwealth PAC members, clerks and representatives of national Supreme Audit Institutions.



The Hon. Dick Sawle MLA

Picture: FIG

Interview with... Darren Christie

Q You are the new Public Relations Manager for the Falkland Islands Government; what did you do before?

A For the past six years, I was working for the Government of South Georgia, based at Government House here in Stanley, doing some of the groundwork for a series of environmental restoration projects. It is great to see these starting to come together; in a couple of years' time, the Island will be a very different place, and all for the better. I took up my new role just before Christmas, and it has certainly been a busy period. I've just had to immerse myself completely in different issues, which has been really exciting.

Q What have been some of the biggest challenges in your new role?

A One of the biggest challenges has been to assimilate a lot of information quickly, and then try and decide what is likely to be of interest and what isn't - it can sometimes be quite overwhelming! In my role, I need to keep on top of both the international events that may relate to and impact on the Falklands, and the local ones that may be of interest internationally. I have also needed to quickly build relationships with a lot of important stakeholders across Government and indeed the wider community. These things take time, but word is spreading of my role, so I am certainly keeping busy.

Q What has surprised you the most?

A The sheer amount of interest from the world's media in the Falkland Islands has been astonishing. This being a significant anniversary year, I was expecting there to be some continued interest, but despite 30 years passing since the end of the conflict with Argentina, the thirst for information about the Islands seems to be undiminished. We have welcomed members of the media from all four corners of the globe and I am pleased to say that they have all left with a story, and taken away positive sentiments about these Islands that many of them had never visited before. In the first few months of this year alone, we estimate well over 175 international press have visited the Islands, with more than 700 MLA interviews having taken place both by visiting journalists and by journalists phoning in. The most satisfying thing is seeing

misconceptions changing once people have actually been here and seen our home for themselves.

Q How have you found it dealing with Argentine media?

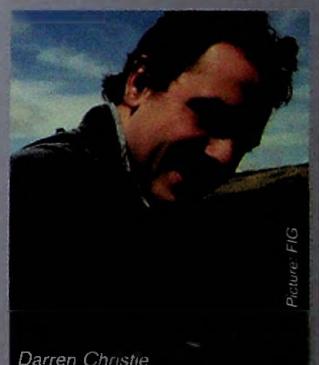
A For obvious reasons, the Argentine media have been taking a close interest in the Falkland Islands this year. We have had all of the major national newspapers pay us a visit at some point since Christmas and there are more visits planned. I'd like to think that by presenting them the facts on the ground, we have been able to go some way to showing ordinary Argentines the truth about who we are and how we live our lives, and created a more balanced view.

Q Have there been any particular highlights?

A One real highlight for us here was to oversee live international radio broadcasts from the BBC Radio Five Live's Dominic Raab from the Malvina House Hotel throughout the day in February, which was brilliant. We've since done similar things with the BBC World Service and others, and even had the first ever live Stage interview broadcast for BBC TV's The One Show.

Q What kind of impact do you think your new role is having in terms of framing the Falkland Islands Government policy view?

A With a new website soon to be launched and working closely with our PR agency, Edelman, we are in a strong position to manage the international interest in the Islands and capitalise on this by taking our message to an ever growing audience. My main aim is to facilitate communicating all the good work that is being done in the Falklands across the board, not just in Government. We don't need to do anything differently, just tell a better story to the people about it! We have an awful lot to be proud of in the Falklands, and it's a real pleasure to be a part of it.



Darren Christie

Picture: FIG

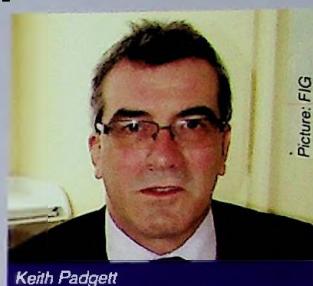
New Chief Executive appointed

Keith Padgett has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Falkland Islands Government (FIG). Mr Padgett has worked for FIG for eleven years, holding posts of Deputy Financial Secretary and, most recently, Financial Secretary.

The appointment was welcomed by elected politicians in the Islands, with the Hon Roger Edwards MLA offering his support, "We are pleased that the job has gone to someone who has worked his way up through the FIG system. We

believe Keith's appointment, against competition from very experienced external candidates, shows that there are real opportunities for talent to rise to the top in Government. We hope this will be an encouragement to all others in the service."

Keith will be responsible for the day to day running of the Islands' civil service. In addition, the Chief Executive role is one that requires the post holder to act as the principle strategist in the Islands, a critical role at an important point in time for the Islands' economic

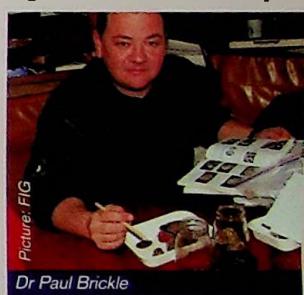


Keith Padgett

Director of SAERI announced

Dr Paul Brickle has been appointed as the Director of the newly established South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute in Stanley. Dr Brickle is an experienced practitioner in the field of fisheries and previously spent 10 years working as a Fisheries Biologist and Marine Ecologist with the Falklands Islands Government Fisheries Department.

"The Falkland Islands and the wider South Atlantic are areas that are under studied by many environmental disciplines and therefore provide unique opportunities for research in the region," said Dr Brickle, who commenced in this newly created role in March. He will lead the development of the Research Institute and ultimately look to promote the organisation internationally.



Dr Paul Brickle

Falkland Islands: Open For Business

The largest trade delegation from the Falkland Islands since the mid-1990s touched down in Scotland on 8th May to undertake a four-day visit to Aberdeen and Shetland.

The 32 strong group, made up of representatives from across the Falkland Islands private sector, met with a wide spectrum of Scottish businesses with interests in the oil industry. Included in the party were Hon Dick Sawle MLA, with portfolio for Trade and Industry, and Marc Boucher, General Manager of the Development Corporation.

The Falklands delegation delivered a range of presentations, both in Aberdeen and in Lerwick, attracting interest from companies operating in the UK oil and gas sector. Andy Morrison, Operations Manager at the oil exploration firm Rockhopper, delivered a talk on his company's positive experience in developing the Sea Lion oil field in the Falklands. In addition, the Hon Dick Sawle MLA spoke about how Falkland Islands Government policy had been designed to support the developing oil industry for the benefit of companies interested in working in the Islands.

"The visit was hugely successful. We heard from our counterparts at the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce that our delegation attracted the most media coverage of any inbound delegation that they have hosted. They certainly felt there was a

positive oil story developing in the South Atlantic," said Hamish Wylie, Vice President of the Falkland Islands Chamber of Commerce.

The results of the trade mission will be presented back to the Falkland Islands Government via the Oil and Gas Working Group.



Falkland Islands trade delegation at Aberdeen Harbour

Inaugural Falklands Tourism Awards

On 12th May 2012, an awards ceremony and gala ball was held in the Islands to celebrate the achievements of the tourism industry. The inaugural awards, reflecting the increasing importance of tourism to the economy of the Islands, focused on a number of categories including accommodation, catering, guiding and customer service.

An outstanding summer for Bluff Cove Lagoon was topped off after they were awarded the Best Visitor Attraction (Experience) of the Year Award while, one of the most coveted prizes, for Outstanding Contribution to Tourism, was won by Kay McCallum for her highly popular and well regarded bed & breakfast accommodation.

Other award winners on the night included:

- Patrick Watts MBE for Tourist Guide of the Year
- Sam Davies for the Understanding Customer Service Award
- Debbie Summers for the

Falkland Islands Ambassador Award

- Malvina House Hotel for the Taste of the Falklands
- Lafone House for the Best Catered Accommodation Award



Bluff Cove Lagoon

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:

www.falklands.gov.fk



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



Falklands Focus

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 91

September 2012

FIG Announces Historic Referendum For 2013

In June, the Falkland Islands Government announced that it will offer Islanders a chance to vote on their future, in a referendum that is planned for March 2013. The announcement by the Legislative Assembly came in the week that a delegation of MLAs and young Islanders came face to face with Argentine Government

representatives at the UN in New York.

Making the announcement, the Hon. Gavin Short MLA said, "We are holding this referendum not because we have any doubts about who we are and what future we want, but to show the world just how certain we are about it.

"I have no doubt that the people of the Falklands wish for the Islands to remain a self-governing Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom."

The decision by the Legislative Assembly to hold the historic vote was welcomed in London, with Prime Minister David Cameron saying: "Next year's referendum will determine beyond doubt the views of the people of the

Falklands. Britain will respect and defend their choice."

"We look to all UN members to live up to their responsibilities under the UN Charter and accept the Islanders' decision about how they want to live."

Full details of the date and terms of the referendum are expected to be announced later in 2012.

Next Generation of Islanders at United Nations

This year's annual meeting of the UN Committee of 24 (Special Committee on Decolonisation) marked a change in approach from the Falkland Islands Government; a group of young Islanders travelled with two Members of the Legislative Assembly, to present the case for Argentina to respect the wishes of Falkland Islanders and their right to self-determination. The delegation delivered a strong message to the much larger, 90-strong, Argentine delegation that the people of the Falkland Islands wish to remain a British Overseas Territory.

Taking place on 14th June, the 30th Anniversary of Liberation Day for the Islands, this year's meeting carried added significance. In a move described by diplomats as 'highly unusual', Argentine President, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, attended the meeting. The Hon. Roger Edwards MLA and the Hon. Mike Summers OBE MLA delivered the message on behalf of the Islands' people during the formal speeches afforded to both parties. The six young Islanders travelling with the MLAs attended the meetings to represent the next generation of Islanders.

Ailie Biggs, 29, who runs a chain of convenience stores in the Islands, said: "This is the opportunity, we really believe, as Falkland Islanders, we are able to say what we really feel, that we are the important ones in the

equation - we are the ones who live there." Ailie was joined by fellow Islanders Andrew Pollard, Krysteen Ormond, Caris Stevens, Michael Poole and James Marsh.

The Argentine President used the platform to once again call for negotiations over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. However, the Hon. Roger Edwards MLA delivered a robust response to those demands, stating that Buenos Aires had, "persisted in its attempts to deny the people of the Falkland Islands

their democratic rights." The Hon. Mike Summers OBE MLA also asked the Committee to take into consideration that "their responsibility is not to the United Kingdom or to Argentina. It is to the people of the self-governing British territory."

Members of the Falklands delegation reported that they had received positive feedback on their approach and position from diplomats that they met during their time in New York. The group also tried to hand-deliver a letter

addressed to the Argentine President, offering her and her government the opportunity to sit down with the Falkland Islands Government to discuss areas of mutual cooperation. The letter was declined. The Hon. Mike Summers OBE MLA described the snub as "representative of the Argentine Government's policy towards the Falkland Islands people - to ignore us, to deny our human rights, and to deny our rights as a people to determine their own future."



Islanders at the UN

Picture: FIG

Prime Minister Attends Annual Reception

The Falklands Islands Government annual reception in London on 14th June welcomed a special guest - Prime Minister, The Rt Hon David Cameron MP - to mark the 30th anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands.

In an impassioned speech to more than 350 guests, including Islanders, MPs, veterans and supporters, Mr. Cameron paid tribute to the fallen whilst reaffirming Britain's commitment to the Islands to continue to uphold the rights of the Islanders to self-determination.

Mr. Cameron said: "Today's thirtieth anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands is an opportunity to remember all those who lost

their lives in the Conflict and to look forward to what the future holds for the Falklands. It's a time to pay tribute to the 255 UK servicemen who paid the ultimate price so that the people of the Falkland Islands could live in peace and in freedom. And it's a time to express our huge debt of gratitude to all those servicemen who showed such astonishing courage to recapture the Islands. Their bravery reminds us that freedom is only won, and peace is only kept, because there are exceptionally brave people willing to journey to the other side of the world to lay their lives on the line.

"Our resolve to support the Falkland Islanders has not wavered in the last thirty years and it will not in the years ahead. For the last 180 years, ten generations

have called the Falkland Islands home and have strived hard to secure a prosperous future for their children. And despite the aggressive threats from over the water, they are succeeding. The Falklands economy is growing, the fishing industry is thriving and tourism is flourishing. Next year's referendum will establish the

definitive choice of the Falkland Islanders once and for all. And just as we have stood up for the Falkland Islanders in the past, so we will in the future."

The reception ended with the Loyal Toast and a performance of Beating Retreat by the Band of the Royal Marines.



Picture: FIG

Prime Minister The Rt Hon David Cameron MP with the Hon Dick Sawle MLA and Sukey Cameron MBE

Celebrations and Jubilations

A beacon was lit on the shore of the Falklands on 4th June as the Islands joined many other Overseas Territories (OTs) and countries around the world to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The beacon, constructed of 300 wooden pallets, was lit on Surf Bay, near Stanley.

As well as the commemorative beacon, on 10th May, the Islands released a special edition set of four Diamond Jubilee stamps featuring images of Her Majesty during each of her special anniversary years. A thanksgiving service was also held at the Christ Church Cathedral in Stanley, led by ministers of the local churches and attended by local dignitaries.

In London, the Hon. Dick Sawle MLA and his wife, Judith, represented the Islands at the official events for the Diamond Jubilee.

Reflecting on the commemorations, Minister for the Overseas Territories at the FCO, Henry Bellingham MP, said: "We are delighted that so many of the Overseas Territories are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee with events. The fact that the Overseas Territories are playing such a full role is recognition of their close relationship with the Queen and the UK. Involving them in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations is part of our strategy of reinvigorating our relationship with the Overseas Territories".

Thirty Years On, The Islands Remember

On 14th June, Islanders commemorated the 30th anniversary of the end of the Falkland Islands Conflict, remembering those who fought to recapture the Islands from Argentine occupation in 1982.

In the Islands' capital, Stanley, more than 100 veterans joined Islanders, Jeremy Browne MP, Minister of State at the FCO,

and other invited guests, for the Liberation Day Parade at the Liberation Monument together with representatives from the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, Falkland Islands Defence Force and local youth groups.

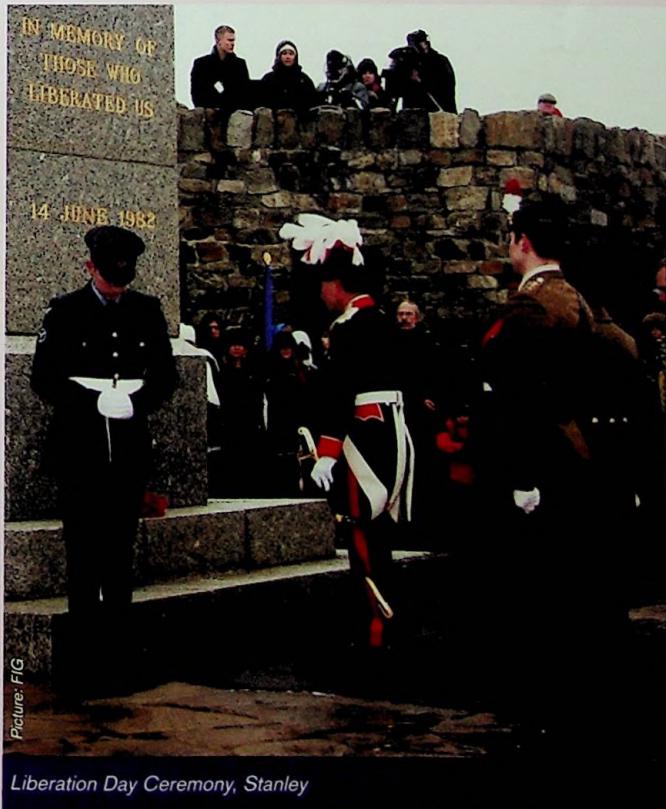
The Salamanca Band of the Rifles, together with Falkland Islands veterans, participated in parades and activities in Stanley

and Fox Bay, as well as a special interdenominational Songs of Praise in Christ Church Cathedral in Stanley on 17th June.

An evening 'Reception for Reflection' event, on 15th June at the Stanley Town Hall, brought together 200 of the 600 Islanders who were living in Stanley at the time of the Conflict and still remain in the Islands today. The reception allowed many to gather together with their families and veterans to reflect on the events of 30 years ago. Candles were lit in honour of the 255 British servicemen and three Islanders who were killed in the Conflict.

Elsewhere, Britain sent a clear message to Argentina and the international community by flying the Islands' flag above Number 10 Downing Street in a tribute to those who died in the 1982 Conflict and a show of solidarity with the Islanders of today. The flag also flew over the Foreign Office, the offices of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Following the commemorations, the mood in the Islands was one of not only of reflection, but also of hope as Islanders look forward to the next 30 years - a future which looks very bright indeed.



Liberation Day Ceremony, Stanley

Picture: FIG

Interview with... Caris Stevens

Caris Stevens was born in the Falkland Islands and completed a degree in Interior Architecture at Brighton University in 2009. Since graduating, she has been working in the Design Section of the Public Works Department in the Islands. Caris was among the group of young Islanders who joined MLAs at the UN Committee of 24 in New York.

Q You were invited to be part of a delegation of Islanders that joined MLAs at the UN C24 Committee in New York in June; how did you come to be invited?

A I've always been interested in the wider world, and in particular international affairs. Living where we do, I think that's a really important interest to have, and to be honest, most people that live in the Islands have those same interests. So when I got a call from the Falkland Islands Government, I was only too happy to accept.

Q What was the purpose of your visit?

A The key to our presence at the UN meeting in New York was to give the Islanders a voice on an international stage. We are always told by Argentina that we are an implanted population. The reality is, I am a sixth generation Islander, so being able to represent our people was a fantastic honour for me. Often the perception of the Islands can be skewed because all people see are two governments in London and Buenos Aires talking about us, when the reality is that we have a right to self-determination and any debate on our future simply must include us. This Committee allowed us to express that opinion.

Q What was your role at the Committee itself?

A We sat in behind the MLAs while they delivered their addresses to the assembled diplomats and the 90-strong Argentine delegation. We were there as the 'face of the next generation' of Islanders. After the session had closed, we tried to deliver a letter from Islanders to the Argentine party. The letter contained an invitation to sit down with the Falkland Islands Government and discuss areas of mutual cooperation, as well as setting out our plans to hold a referendum in 2013. Unfortunately the Argentine President refused to take the letter! After the session, we gathered near the UN building for a photo call. Those images were published by a number of international media, which meant our message was delivered even further afield.

Q What kind of feedback did you get from people that you met while you were in New York?

A We spoke to a lot of other country representatives whilst we were at the UN, telling them about our position and re-affirming our right to self-determination. We also had a few handshakes from passers-by at our photo call which was great to see. I also noticed that the reaction to our presence and the speeches on social media channels, such as Twitter, was all very positive.

Q What particular highlights would you pick out from your experience?

A First and foremost, it was an honour to be asked to join this delegation, along with a group of other young Islanders. Being able to work closely with the MLAs on the trip, it was clear to see what a fantastic job they do representing our small community on the international stage. For me, being able to tell as many people as possible about our Islands, our way of life and our wishes was the real highlight and I am sure this trip has set us in good stead for similar activities in the future. This type of trip is a great opportunity for young people in the Falklands to express their views. One thing that I will always remember is being told by a UN official that "you are the future of the Islands". He is right!



Caris Stevens

Investments in Oil Exploration

Interest in the potential of offshore Falkland Islands oil fields continues to grow. In July, Premier Oil agreed to invest \$1 billion (£650 million) to help develop the Sea Lion field with oil group Rockhopper. The explorer announced that it had agreed to buy a 60 percent operating stake of Rockhopper's license interests, which will initially involve \$231 million to cover activity to date, and then another \$48 million to fund further exploration, plus \$722 million for development.

The decision came despite ongoing threats from Argentina to take action against 'illegal' exploration in waters near the Islands. Premier Oil said it had taken the relevant advice, including

from the British Government, and felt confident that it was a "risk worth taking", according to Chief Executive Simon Lockett.

Noble Energy Inc., through its affiliate Noble Energy Falklands Limited, recently announced that it had entered into an agreement with Falkland Oil and Gas Limited (FOGL), under which Noble Energy is acquiring an interest in FOGL's extensive license areas consisting of approximately 10 million acres located south and east of the Falkland Islands.

In addition, US firm Edison is set to acquire 25 percent and 12.5 percent interests in FOGL's northern and southern licenses respectively, as well as funding a share of drilling costs.



Diamond Offshore Drilling International

Optimistic Future for Private Sector

Whilst the Falkland Islands have featured prominently in global news over the past six months, one issue that remains high on the agenda of Islanders themselves, is the health of the local economy. Away from the glare of publicity generated by issues relating to sovereignty of the Islands, the Islands' economy has been steadily flourishing, thanks to a combination of careful management of natural resources and prudent planning by the Falkland Islands Government.

Thirty years on from the Conflict, the Islands' economic landscape has changed radically. In 1982, the principal export of the Islands was wool, a commodity vulnerable to global price fluctuations. Fast forward thirty years and the economic picture has been transformed; fishing, tourism and the beginnings of an oil industry paint a very different scene.

In an interview with Falklands Focus, Roger Spink, President of the Falkland Islands Chamber of

Commerce and Director of the Falkland Islands Company (the largest private sector employer in the Falklands), feels that the opening up of the fishing industry has been the catalyst for the steady economic growth of the past few years. "The introduction of the fishing zone in 1986 transformed the Islands' economy from a fairly basic one based on agriculture, to a much more affluent economy, benefitting from the fishery license fee funds and the subsequent taxation revenues from the organisations involved in fishing activities."

The private sector has traditionally been a smaller employer than the public sector. The Government is now looking to the private sector to redress that balance by outsourcing and privatising some operations.

Entrepreneurs are often described as the 'life blood' of any economy. Mr. Spink is clear that the conditions for attracting

small businesses and business minded individuals needs to be right. "We have a number of young Islanders, some of whom are returning to the Falklands having completed further education overseas. We need to ensure that we have the finance, guidance and advice in place for them to make the most of the opportunities that arise here."

What is clear as the Islands look to the future, is that there is already a healthy private sector that has benefitted from the continued success of the fisheries industry. The Government has developed careful growth plans to help to encourage more private sector activity and capitalise on the strong performance of the tourism and fisheries sectors. With the continued return of young Islanders keeping the talent pipeline healthy, the Islands are in a stronger position than ever before to take the local economy from strength to strength.

Embracing the Winds of Change

As much as 40 percent of the Falkland Islands is currently powered by electricity generated from wind at peak times, and this looks set to grow.

Following confirmation from the Executive Council that £300,000 was to be allocated from Falkland Landholdings profits for the purchase of equipment, two large farms - at Goose Green and Fitzroy - are preparing to be the next farms to have turbines, inverters and batteries installed.

These latest proposals would extend the Islands' wind power infrastructure, which already boasts a £4.6m development at Sand Bay, including three turbines which were built in 2007 and another three which were added in 2010.

The Falkland Islands' location means that imported fossil fuels are expensive for Islanders. By turning to alternative energy sources such as wind power, the Islands authorities can help not only to reduce the carbon footprint and protect the pristine environment of the Islands, but also help lower the cost of energy for the residents.

FIG at Annual Conferences

Once again, FIG will be attending the three main political party conferences this year. The Islands will be represented by MLAs the Hon Jan Cheek and the Hon Ian Hansen, along with the London Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE. Also attending this year will be young Islanders Michael Poole and Zoran Zivic, who will be lending their support at the Liberal Democrat and Labour, and Conservative Party Conferences respectively.

Liberal Democrat Party Conference

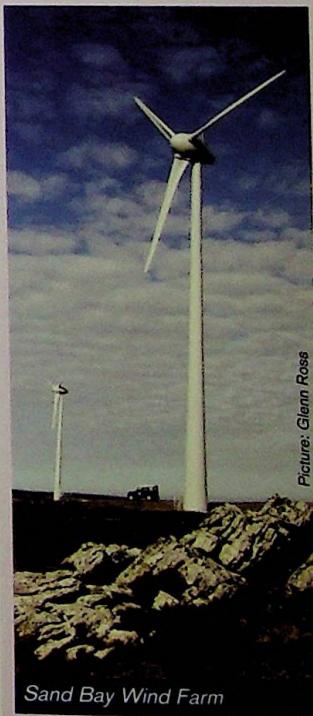
22nd – 26th September
Stand H30 (Brighton)

Labour Party Conference

30th September – 4th October
Stand 46 (Manchester)

Conservative Party Conference

7th – 10th October
Stand 4 (Birmingham)



Picture: Glenn Ross



FIDF Team at Bisley

Stanley's Sam Brownlee was the standout female performer, winning a silver medal for her shooting skills. With approximately 900 competitors from all over the world taking part, the field was one of the strongest ever assembled. Despite being small in size (around 80) the FIDF's performances were enough to beat the Canadian regular forces,

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



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



Falklands Focus

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 92

April 2013

Referendum result leaves no room for doubt

The people of the Falkland Islands turned out in force on 10th and 11th March, to register their views on whether the Islands should continue to be an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. In Stanley's Town Hall, Falkland Islands Government Chief Executive, Keith Padgett, addressed the world's media and Islanders, delivering the news many had been waiting for.

In a virtually unanimous message to the world, 1,513 (99.8 percent) people voted for the Islands to retain their status as an Overseas Territory, with only three people voting to the contrary. Voter turn-out was particularly strong, and was posted at 92 percent. The results - whilst perhaps not unexpected - were met with great pride and satisfaction by Islanders. "I'm very happy. Everyone has come together to express themselves", said tour guide, Kyle Biggs. "I think this is massively significant. It's important to show how much we want to stay British."

The Prime Minister was also quick to praise the result, whilst at the same time sounding a warning to Argentina. Mr. Cameron said that Falkland Islanders "couldn't have spoken more clearly... They want to remain British and that view should be respected by everybody, including by Argentina."

Members of the Legislative Assembly were also clearly delighted with the result and turn out. "Today has been our day," said the Hon. Jan Cheek. "This result must surely signal to the world that we, the people of the Falkland Islands, have spoken with one voice, that we want to continue to be an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. It really couldn't be simpler." Other MLAs recalled recent comments from Argentina's Foreign Minister, Hector Timerman, who claimed that 'Falkland Islanders do not exist'. "I think that this vote is a clear demonstration that Falkland Islanders do actually exist!" said the Hon. Mike Summers. "As a



Pictures: A. Pinkerton and H. K. Martin

Voting

people, we are finding a collective voice. I hope that this vote will now give us a mandate to go out to the world and right some untruths that our closest neighbour has been purporting over recent years."

Despite claims from Argentine President, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, that the vote was a "publicity stunt and has no validity in international law," a group of international observers had gathered in the Islands to oversee the vote. Representatives from the Referendum International Observer Mission (RIOM) oversaw the voting across both main islands and in outlying communities. Head of the International Observer Mission, Brad Smith, said that the "Falkland Islands referendum process was free and fair, reflecting the democratic will of the voters of the Falkland Islands."

The world watches the Falklands

Over 50 international journalists and crew travelled to Stanley to cover the referendum. UK media was well represented by the BBC, Sky, ITN, The Independent and The Telegraph. The historic vote also drew media from China, the US (New York Times and AP), CNN Espanola, South America, and of course Argentina. Beyond those reporting from the Islands, there was interest in the story from Finland and Russia to Japan and Peru.

With so many media reporting direct from Stanley, the world got an inside view on Island life and a sense of how important the referendum was to those that were voting in it. While acknowledging that the result would 'not be a surprise', news reports explored the importance

of the referendum in giving Islanders a say in their own future and a clear mandate to take to international partners. In addition to the vote itself, media covered the preparations and celebrations, as well as reporting on the community and the wildlife.

The overall impact of international referendum coverage was aptly captured by BBC Defence Correspondent, Caroline Wyatt: 'These may be small islands almost 8,000 miles from the UK, but they have just spoken with a loud voice in favour of retaining those historic ties. The Islanders' hope is that their voices will be listened to all the way to Buenos Aires and beyond - not least by other nations and capitals that Argentina has been seeking to convince of its claims.' Source: BBC News website.

An Islander's View: "We are a people who have the right to determine our own future"

By Krysteen Ormond, fourth-generation Falkland Islander

Historically, Falkland Islanders have been perceived by the international community as a slightly diffident, voiceless people, answerable to the Queen. The 2013 referendum was extremely important as our opportunity to show the world that we are not suffering under the weight of a colonial yoke; rather, we are a people who have the power and the right to determine our own future.

As a twenty-four year-old who has been offered incomparable opportunities through living in the Falklands, I am proud to have voted in our referendum as well as to be part of a movement that gives a true voice to Islanders on



Krysteen Ormond

Continued on page 2

We are fiercely proud of home and of all we have achieved yet, increasingly, Islanders are under pressure to almost justify our being in the face of political opposition from Argentina. In an age where politics and diplomacy rely on the tangible, a document showing the results of a democratic vote on our political status is an invaluable tool for Islanders when demonstrating who we are, and how we feel about our lives and home.

Fact-Finding Mission to Norway and the Shetlands

Senior members of the Government travelled to Norway and the Shetland Islands in December on a fact-finding mission. The trip was focused on helping FIG gain insights into best practice from experiences of the hydrocarbon industry, as the Islands move from the exploration to development phase over the coming years.

The Chief Executive (Keith Padgett), Director of Mineral Resources (Stephen Luxton), Head of Policy (Jamie Fotheringham), Financial Secretary (Nicola Granger) and Director of Central Services (Simon Fletcher) accompanied by two MLAs, the Hon. Dr. Barry Elsby, with portfolio responsibility for Hydrocarbons and the Hon. Dick Sawle, with portfolio responsibility for Trade and Industry, explored how a range

of issues relating to hydrocarbon exploration and development were managed in the host countries.

The delegation attended meetings focusing on local content & business development, regulatory & licensing issues, social & economic impact, infrastructure delivery, revenue management and emergency response.

Speaking to Penguin News following the trip, MLA Sawle said that one of the key learnings was the need for clarity on the part of Government in its dealings with oil companies. He noted the requirement for clear legislation, so that the oil companies could know precisely what was required of them, thus avoiding the need for excessive negotiation. He also stressed the need to maintain clear and open communications between FIG and the community.

Falkland Islands Representatives Attend British Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council

The Hon. Jan Cheek MLA and the Hon. Sharon Halford MLA joined leaders, Chief Ministers and other elected representatives from Britain's Overseas Territories at the first meeting of the Joint Ministerial Council, aimed at implementing the vision and strategy set out in the June 2012 White Paper, 'The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability'.

The meeting, held in London on 4th and 5th December last year, which replaced the Overseas Territories Consultative Council, closed with the agreement of a joint communiqué setting out priority issues and a comprehensive action plan for joint work in the coming year.

Due to be held annually, the meeting aims to review and



Picture: FCO
FCO Minister Mark Simmonds MP, the Hon. Jan Cheek MLA, the Prime Minister, the Hon. Sharon Halford MLA and Governor Nigel Haywood CVO

implement the strategy and commitments of the White Paper; provide a forum for the exchange of views on political and constitutional issues between the governments of the Overseas Territories and the UK Government; promote the security and good governance of the Territories and their sustainable economic and social development; and agree priorities, develop plans and review implementation.

During their time in the UK, the group also met with Prime Minister at Downing Street, marking the first time that Territory leaders have had a collective meeting with a British Prime Minister. In his foreword to the White Paper, the Prime Minister stated: "The United Kingdom's 14 Overseas Territories are an integral part of Britain's life and history. This Government is ambitious for our Territories as we are ambitious for the United Kingdom. We want to see our communities flourish in partnership, with strong and sustainable local economies. We see an important opportunity to set world standards in our stewardship of the extraordinary natural environments we have inherited."

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Comes to Stanley

The 43rd British Islands and Mediterranean Region (BIMR) annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) opened in Stanley on 12th February. This was the second time that the Islands had hosted the event, the first being in 2004. Thirty seven delegates from across the BIMR attended the conference, as well as observers from Canada and Anguilla.

The event comprised a number of plenary sessions, exploring themes ranging from 'experiences in the development of greater regional and national autonomy', to examining questions such as 'what makes a people?'

The Opening Ceremony featured performances by the Falkland Islands combined school choirs

and instrumentalists from the Falkland Islands Community School. The first plenary session got underway with a speech from the Rt. Hon. Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC, entitled "Self-determination and its role in self-governance and devolution". Professor Michael Keating, Professor of Politics at the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh spoke on the "Arguments about self-determination" for the second plenary session.

"Many of the delegates that I have spoken to have been really impressed by the warm welcome that they had received here in the Islands," said the Hon. Sharon Halford MLA. "I've been particularly impressed with the quality of speakers that we have had attend the sessions this week. With interest in the Falkland Islands high

once again, it has been heartening to hear many voices of support from our colleagues across the Commonwealth."

Representatives from Gibraltar were prominent at the event. The Chief Minister, Fabian Picardo, penned a speech that was delivered by a representative of the Government of Gibraltar, the

Hon. Samantha Sacramento MP. The Hon. Isobel Ellul-Hammond also attended in the capacity of a rapporteur.

Parliamentarians were also present from Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man, Malta, Northern Ireland, St Helena, Wales and the Westminster Parliament.



Picture: FCO
CPA delegates



The Rt Hon Baroness Thatcher LG OM

13th October 1925 – 8th April 2013

*"They are few in number, but they have the right
to live in peace, to choose their own way of life
and to determine their own allegiance"*

- Margaret Thatcher, April 3 1982

Falkland Islands Government Press Statement

8th April 2013

It is with great sadness that we received news of the death of Baroness Thatcher this morning. She will be forever remembered in the Islands for her decisiveness in sending a task force to liberate our home following the Argentine invasion in 1982. Our sincere gratitude was demonstrated in 1983 when she was granted the Freedom of the Falkland Islands. Her friendship and support will be sorely missed, and we will always be thankful for all that she did for us. The thoughts and deepest sympathies of all Falkland Islanders are with her family and friends at this sad time.

Hon. Mike Summers OBE MLA
On behalf of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands

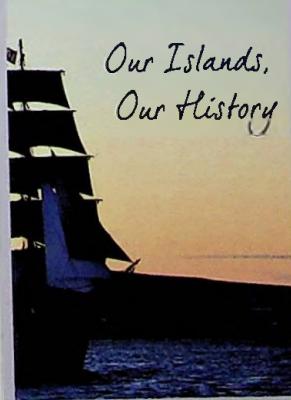
FIG Launches New Brochure - 'Our Islands, Our History'

The Falkland Islands Government officially marked the first publication of a new brochure, titled, 'Our Islands, Our History', compiled by former Governor, David Tatham CMG, at a reception held on 6th February at the Falkland Islands Government Office in London.

In a speech to the guests, the Hon. Dick Sawle MLA took the opportunity to remind Argentina that Falkland Islanders had been living peacefully in the Islands for two generations before Argentina even existed. The brochure is intended to put on record the true history of the development of the Islands and refute mistruths regularly purported by Argentina.

"It is absolutely vital that we do not allow Argentina to continue to paint a distorted picture of Falklands history," said MLA Sawle. "The brochure has been put together in consultation with some of the most respected historians and authorities on the subject of our history. I hope that finally, the truth about how our community was born becomes accepted history and not called into question by those that would seek to discredit us."

The event was well attended by a cross-section of academics, Government officials and media, including the BBC's defence correspondent, Caroline Wyatt and Maria Laura Avignolo, the Europe correspondent of Argentina's Clarin newspaper.



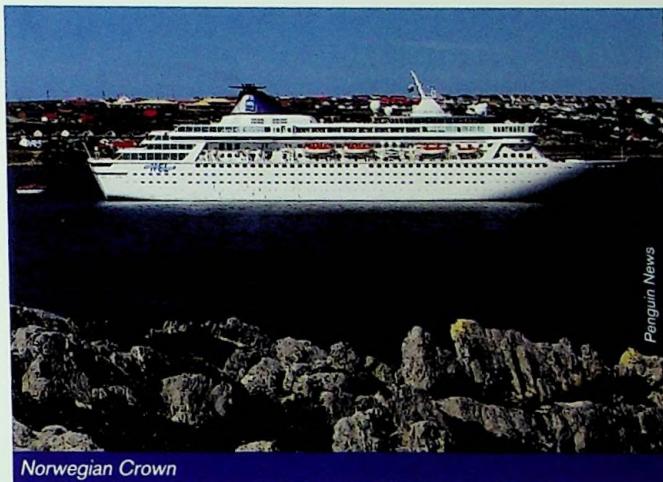
Cruise Ship Disruption

Argentina has made further attempts to economically strangle the Falkland Islands through a targeted campaign of intimidation aimed at cruise ship operators.

According to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), officials have been made aware of at least 12 incidents of disruption or intimidation of cruise liners, affecting almost 10,000 passengers, since mid-November 2012.

Last year, activity also saw protestors ransack a shipping office in Buenos Aires, while campaigners in Ushuaia and other Argentine ports succeeded in delaying ships suspected of heading to, or returning from, the Islands.

"We condemn unequivocally any efforts to intimidate companies from pursuing their lawful business," said Hugo Swire MP, the Foreign and Commonwealth Minister.



Argentine Foreign Minister refuses opportunity to meet MLAs during London Visit

Argentina's Foreign Minister, Hector Timerman, took time to visit London in early February, in a move designed to promote Argentina's version of history in relation to the early settlement of the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Timerman had previously sought a meeting with British Foreign Secretary, the Rt.Hon. William Hague MP. Mr. Hague accepted the offer of a meeting, however he insisted that any discussions on the Falkland Islands would have to include representatives from the Islands' Government. This condition was rejected by Mr. Timerman and the meeting was subsequently cancelled.

Despite this development, MLAs Jan Cheek and Dick Sawle travelled to the UK in the hope that a meeting would take place.

"We came here with the hope that Mr. Timerman would meet with the Foreign Secretary, although we did suspect that he

may cancel that meeting. We're here and we are ready to talk," said the Hon. Jan Cheek MLA, speaking as the Argentine Foreign Secretary was in London.

The Argentine Foreign Minister's programme included a number of rare media engagements, including a tetchy interview with the BBC's Jon Sopel, as well as a chaotically re-arranged press conference to launch a booklet setting out Argentina's claims to sovereignty over the Islands. The centrepiece of the visit was a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Argentina, which took place in the Palace of Westminster.

The meeting was attended by a number of MPs, Lords, officials and representatives of the media, who listened intently to Mr. Timerman's comments linking current British policy in Israel to its stance on the Falklands. On leaving the meeting, Mr. Timerman was offered the chance to accept

The revenues from cruise ship operations and tourism is worth an estimated £10 million to the Falkland Islands' economy. The sector also employs up to a quarter of the working population in the Islands.

Following the rise in disruptive activity last year, the Hon. Dick Sawle MLA made a statement on behalf of the Falklands Islands Government: "This is yet another example of a country of over 40 million people attempting to bully and threaten our three thousand people and strangle the economy of our home. We regret this, and strongly encourage the tourism industry to stand firm, and not to allow themselves to be scared into assisting attempts to damage our economy in what is tantamount to an economic blockade. There are countless families in the Islands whose livelihoods depend on the cruise vessel industry, and for over a decade we have enjoyed welcoming visitors from all over the world to see our wonderful wildlife and heritage."

a letter and a copy of 'Our Islands, Our History' brochure by MLA Sawle, who was waiting in Parliament's Central Lobby. The offer was rebuffed.

Mr. Timerman used a later press conference to claim that "the Falkland Islanders do not exist". He said that what did exist were British citizens who live on the Islands. He went on to say that "The United Nations does not recognise a third party in the conflict. It says there are just two parts: the United Kingdom and Argentina".

It was left to MLAs Cheek and Sawle to set the record straight in a series of media interviews with the BBC's Daily Politics Show, BBC Breakfast, Sky News, ITN, the Daily Telegraph, BBC Radio Five Live and Argentina's Clarin newspaper, amongst others.

"I can assure Mr. Timerman that indeed we do exist," said MLA Sawle.

Remembering Sir Rex Hunt CMG

Sir Rex Hunt CMG, who was Governor of the Falkland Islands during the Argentine invasion in 1982, died on Remembrance Sunday, 11th November 2012, aged 86.

On hearing the news of his passing, the Hon. Roger Edwards MLA, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands, made the following statement:

"We received news of the passing of Sir Rex Hunt with great sadness. Sir Rex will forever be remembered in the Islands for his years of service as Governor, and particularly for his courage and dignity in facing the Argentine invasion in 1982. His numerous contributions to our home were recognised in his

being granted the Freedom of Stanley in 1985. A loyal friend of the Falkland Islands, he served for many years as Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association and as President of the UK Falkland Islands Trust. His passion and commitment to the Falkland Islands will be sorely missed. The thoughts and deepest sympathies of all Falkland Islanders are with his family and friends at this sad time."



Sir Rex Hunt CMG

Census Results



Agriculture provides employment in the Islands

A Census carried out in April 2012 shows that, against a difficult global economic backdrop, employment prospects in the Islands continue to be strong. The Census found that the unemployment rate is less than 1% and almost 20% of people in the Islands have more than one job.

The results also show that the population has remained stable since 2006 – when the last Census was held – with the normal resident population of the Falkland Islands, excluding the military personnel and civilian contractors at the military base at Mount Pleasant, at 2,563.

The majority of the population (75%) remains in the capital, Stanley, while in Camp – the area outside of Stanley – the population stands at 351 people.

Additional findings of note show:

- The male to female split is very balanced, with a 101 males per 100 females
- Electricity is the main fuel source for cooking in Stanley (53%), with a further 39% of householders also using it for heating. This contrasts with Camp where gas is the main source of fuel for cooking in 77% of households

Reflecting on the results, Jamie Fotheringham, Head of Policy, stressed the importance of the Census to understanding people's needs and establishing key services in the Islands, from healthcare to education. "We now have a comprehensive and up-to-date set of data to better inform such planning at these exciting times for the Islands."

Former Mineral Resources Director Receives Award

The former Director of Mineral Resources for the Falkland Islands Government, Mrs. Phyl Rendell, has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for 'services to Falklands' interests'. The award comes on the back of Mrs. Rendell's long and distinguished public service career in the Islands, which spans 32 years.

An Islander by birth, Mrs. Rendell attended Goldsmiths College in London before returning to the Falkland Islands after qualifying as a teacher. She began her career in the education sector of the Falkland Islands Government, teaching at Darwin Boarding School, where she had been a pupil in her early years. Mrs Rendell went on to become the Director of the Camp Education Department and later the Director of Education for the Islands as a whole.

Mrs. Rendell was appointed Director of Mineral Resources

in 1996 and represented the Falkland Islands Government in tri-lateral meetings between Buenos Aires and London, to discuss the establishment of a joint area of exploration of oil and gas, in and around Falklands' waters.

Despite having retired from the Falkland Islands Government in 2012, Mrs. Rendell continues to work as a public servant, having been recently appointed to the new role of Complaints Commissioner.

Penguin News reported Mrs. Rendell to be "very proud" and that she thanked those who had proposed her for the award.



Phyl Rendell MBE

Young Islanders Represent the Falkland Islands at 5th Commonwealth Youth Parliament

Last year, nominated by the Legislative Assembly to represent the Falkland Islands, Stacy Bragger and Krysteen Ormond joined other young people from around the Commonwealth to attend the 5th Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP) in London. Held from 4th-8th December, the CYP aims to encourage young people into politics and gives Commonwealth Youth Parliamentarians the opportunity to understand parliamentary practice and procedure.

This year's CYP focused on governance, looking at the concept from local, national and international perspectives.

Stacy and Krysteen were selected due to their interest in politics. Last year, Krysteen was part of a delegation of young Islanders who went to the UN

decolonisation committee in New York.

Speaking of his experience on returning from the CYP, Mr. Bragger said: "Being able to represent the Falkland Islands at the Commonwealth Youth Parliament was a tremendous honour for me. The programme was brilliantly organised and it was an experience that I found very interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. I feel that we made many useful contributions during the various sessions and were able to highlight Falklands issues to our fellow delegates."

Ms. Ormond added that one of the highlights included the opportunity to meet other young people. She said that whilst it was a very serious programme, at the end of the day, they were all peers building friendships and strengthening relationships.

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Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



Falklands Focus

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Issue 93

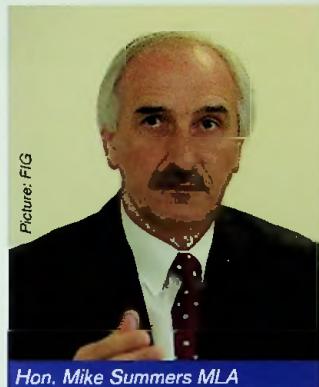
September 2013

C24 comes under fire

Delegations from both Argentina and the Falkland Islands attended the United Nations Decolonisation Committee (C24) in New York in June. The Argentine delegation was headed by Foreign Minister, Hector Timerman, with the notable addition of the Governors from the provinces of Santa Fe and Tierra del Fuego.

In the run up to this year's Committee session, the Argentine administration had spent considerable time and resources lobbying nations on their position on the Falkland Islands and saw Mr Timerman declaring the UK's "systematic refusal to resume negotiations" as a stumbling block for any progress on the issue.

In response, the Falkland Islands Government delegation, led by the Hon. Mike Summers OBE MLA and the Hon. Sharon Halford MLA, challenged not only



Picture: FIG

Hon. Mike Summers MLA

Argentina's entrenched position, but also the role of the Committee in relation to the Falklands issue.

"This Committee is not charged by the Secretary General or the General Assembly with discussing or resolving sovereignty disputes. And to advance, or support, claims to the Falkland Islands, or any other territory, in this forum, is an abuse of this Committee's purpose," said MLA Summers.

The British Foreign Office reinforced these comments, with a spokesperson saying that the Committee "no longer has a relevant role to play with respect to British Overseas Territories and to describe our [the UK's] relationship with them [the Falkland Islands] as colonial is insulting to both them and us. We are committed to a modern relationship based on partnership and shared values."

The Referendum, held in the Islands in March, is considered by some to be a 'game-changer' with regards to the longer-term direction of the sovereignty debate. The resounding message that Falkland Islanders delivered at the polling stations has enforced attitudes towards the Islands' relationship with the UK and the MLAs conveyed this message to the Committee.

Speaking about the Referendum,

the Hon. Sharon Halford MLA said: "The message is clear. We, the people of the Falklands, are happy with our current relationship with the UK. It is not an anachronistic colonial situation as characterised by Argentina, but a modern relationship where the UK listens to our wishes and we are responsible for our own internal self-government."

General Election date announced

A General Election will be held in the Islands on 7th November to elect the eight-member Legislative Assembly for the Falkland Islands.

The Assembly is elected for a term of four years, with five Members elected to represent Stanley and three for Camp (the countryside). The current Assembly will be dissolved on 26th September; however, the three Members of the Executive Council remain in place until the new Executive Council is sworn in on 8th November.

Nominations papers are available from 26th September and nominations close on 17th October, with the list of candidates being published no later than 23rd October.

This election will be the first to be held under the new remuneration arrangements for full-time Members. Currently, Members are part-time and paid an allowance for expenses and attendance at meetings. It is hoped that the new arrangements will provide an opportunity for a wider selection of candidates to be able to stand for election.

Falklands marks 25 years at UK party conferences

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) will mark its twenty fifth anniversary of attendance at the Labour and Conservative Party Conferences in September.

Suey Cameron MBE, the UK Representative, will be joined by Legislative Assembly Members the Hon. Jan Cheek and the Hon. Ian Hansen. FIG is one of the longest-standing exhibitors, having attended the Labour and Conservative Party Conferences since 1988.

Ms Cameron said: "The conference provides a great opportunity to strengthen our relationship with those that have connections with the Islands. It allows interesting debates with passing party members and members of the media, and we are pleased with the high level of support we always receive."



The Hon. Ian Hansen MLA, Zoran Zivic and the Hon. Jan Cheek MLA on the Falklands' stand in 2012.

Picture: S. Cameron

Development confirmed for Port William

Executive Council (ExCo) has approved plans for a new port development that will support the oil and gas industry in the Falkland Islands. A site at Port William has been earmarked for the development, which is intended to provide modern port facilities that will support the expected growth in oil and gas production in the waters around the Islands.

The decision follows four months of consultation that FIG has been undertaking with oil industry representatives. Those discussions looked at other location options, as well as focusing on the facilities the industry felt it was considered necessary.

One alternative solution that was explored was an extension to the existing port facilities – known as FIPASS – which would have seen a 250 metre extension built onto the facility in Stanley Harbour. However, that option was ruled out by MLAs as too damaging to the surrounding environment.

The Hon. Dick Sawle MLA, whose Portfolio responsibilities include port development, commented, "Our major concern was that while we welcome and want to support all of the oil and gas industry, we need the development to happen in the right place, both to make sure we can meet the needs of the



Picture: S. Cameron

industry and to ensure we manage the impact on the existing economy and community."

Alongside the port development plans, moves are underway to

examine the process and consequences of creating a special Falkland Islands Port Authority that will oversee shipping in and out of the new port.

The Legislative Assembly delivers referendum message to Latin America

Following the historic Referendum vote in March, Falkland Islands Assembly Members embarked on a multi-country tour of Latin America, with a fresh mandate to explain why Islanders' rights to self-determination should be respected.

The resounding 'Yes' vote, delivered by the electorate, sent a clear message to the world that Islanders wish to remain British, and was the basis of meetings in Latin American capitals and beyond.

In visits to Colombia, Panama, Honduras and Costa Rica amongst others, MLAs were joined by young Islanders,

representing the views of the next generation of Falkland Islanders.

"It was a very positive experience," said Krysteen Ormond, one of the young Islanders who took part. "We presented our Referendum results to key policy-makers in the respective governments we visited, and we generally received a very good reception from them. Many of the politicians seemed sympathetic to our situation, but unfortunately had their hands tied by regional political unity."

The issue of regional politics preventing public changes of policy on the Falkland Islands was echoed by the Hon Dick Sawle MLA in an interview with a Spanish newspaper. "There has

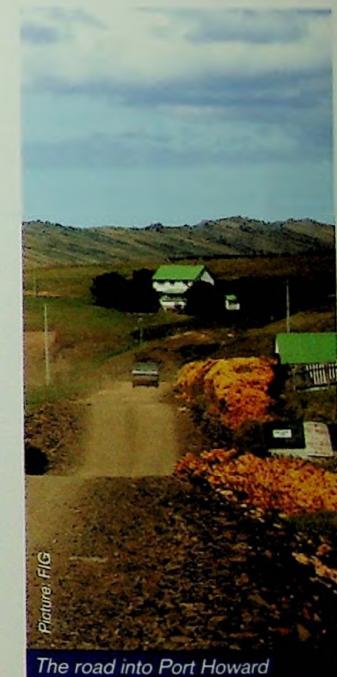
been little movement on official lines taken over the Falklands, that much is true. I have noticed a big change in unofficial attitudes; people I have met have been surprised to learn the truth. They have been used to hearing Argentine official propaganda for so long that they had accepted it as truth."

Whilst the primary objective of the visits was to present the results of the Referendum, MLAs also used the engagements to explore potential commercial opportunities, as well as sharing best practice with other small island communities, such as the San Andres Islands in Colombia.



Krysteen Ormond meets members of youth group Colombia Joven.

Boost to road building programme



Picture: FIG

The road into Port Howard

A total of £1.3 million has been allocated for the road building programme in the Islands for the financial year 2013/14.

The funding will be spent on capping approximately ten kilometres of the road from Stanley to Mount Pleasant and improving roads on East and West Falkland.

The road network currently extends to over 900 kilometres and serves all the mainland settlements.

Update on Oil

Following the completion of the Leiv Eiriksson exploration campaign in late 2012, efforts have been increased to prepare for future prolonged exploration projects and, of course, the development of the Sea Lion field by Premier Oil.

This has been led by the Oil Readiness Review, which was kicked off in 2012 and culminated this year with the submission of three external reports outlining new requirements and updates in: tax regulations; marine legislation; health, safety & environmental regulation; and planning regulations. Following this, and a number of key Executive Council decisions in March 2013, the Government compiled and published an extensive oil readiness checklist to inform the public of current and future work priorities.

Further to this, a comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment was carried out by Manchester-based Regeneris Consulting [see below]. The assessment, along with the previous readiness reports, will be vital tools for policy-makers over the coming years to ensure that any potential



Picture: S. Luxton

Leiv Eiriksson & support vessel, Tossia Sonata

negative impacts of increased investment, migration, and revenue in the Islands are mitigated as far as possible.

Preparations have also included

the appointment of a retained consultant to provide strategic policy and planning advice. With over thirty-five years' experience in international exploration and

production, most recently as CEO and President of BP Canada, Anne Drinkwater is perfectly placed to provide a valuable industry-eye-view of the challenges facing the Falkland Islands.

Protection of the environment remains a priority in any oil-related planning, and following the completion of Premier Oil's extensive baseline survey over the Sea Lion area, efforts are now concentrating on covering knowledge gaps in the Islands as a whole so as to better gauge the impact of all future operations. A series of research priorities have been identified by the Hydrocarbons Environmental Forum, which is now in the process of securing both public and private funding in order to progress research in these areas.

Early 2013 also witnessed a series of 3D seismic surveys to the South and South East of the Falklands by operators Borders & Southern and Noble Energy, which could carry out further surveys in the coming Southern summer. The surveys are a precursor to possible drilling operations in 2014/15, and will hopefully boost operators' understanding of the extensive and relatively under-explored Southern and Eastern basins.

Oil and gas impact study findings published

The impact of migration and infrastructure should remain a key focus for the Falkland Islands as it develops its oil and gas industry, according to a new study published in July.

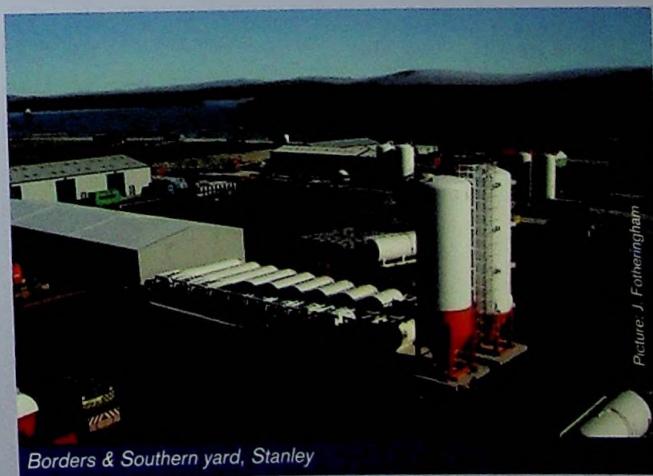
Regeneris Consulting, a leading UK research consultancy, has published its long-awaited findings on opportunities for the development of the sector in the Islands.

The report, entitled "Socio-Economic Study of Oil and Gas Development in the Falklands" anticipates a significant short term spike in labour demand within Stanley over the next five years. Employment is expected to peak at around 550, with extra on-shore workers likely to be required as a direct result of the exploration of the Sea Lion field by the Premier Oil group.

Jamie Fotheringham, Head of Policy for FIG, said: "We welcome this in-depth report from Regeneris which will help significantly in the Government's long-term planning for the emerging oil and gas industry. Its recommendations will now be subject to review by FIG

representatives before they are taken to public consultation."

Regeneris estimates that in the longer term, the development will support around 170 jobs in the Islands, with a further 125 offshore roles.



Picture: J. Fotheringham

Borders & Southern yard, Stanley

The report can be seen at:

<http://www.falklands.gov.fk/assets/Falklands-Oil-and-Gas-Socio-Economic-Study-Final-Report.pdf>

Island Games sees new 'personal best' records set

The 16th Island Games in Bermuda came to a close at the beginning of July. Fourteen sports were contested during the six days of competition, which attracted competitors from 22 islands. With teams competing in a variety of sports ranging from athletics to volleyball, Bermuda played host to over 2,000 competitors from islands such as Guernsey and the Cayman Islands. Amongst them was a team of 48 Falkland Islanders who took part in the events. At a reception held before the games and hosted by His Excellency the Governor, Nigel Haywood CVO, the Hon. Mike Summers OBE MLA, Chairman of the Overseas Games Association, described the group as "as good a team as we've ever had."

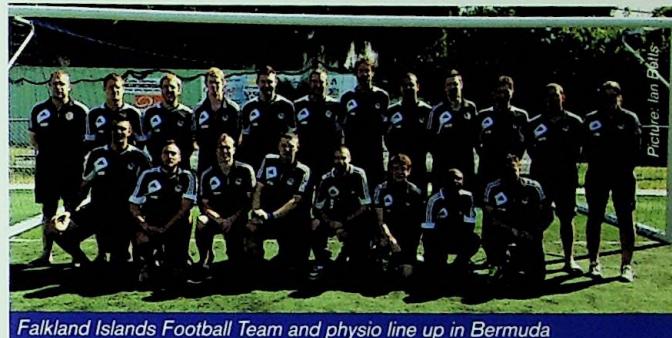
There were notable performances from the Falkland Islands'

swimming team, with Sorrel Pompert Robertson achieving a personal best and breaking the Islands record in the 50m breaststroke. A personal best was also set by Bill Chater in the 800m sprint.

Despite facing extremely hot and humid conditions the Islands football team, playing in their fifth International Island Games competition, took home a bronze

medal after defeating the Norwegian island of Froya 6-0.

An elated Team Manager, Ian Betts, said: "We left home hoping to win the bronze medal as we knew that the gold was out of our reach. We have achieved our aim. For a small Island with a population of under 3,000, we have done remarkably well and I am proud of my players." The next Island Games will take place in 2015 in Jersey.



Falkland Islands Football Team and physio line up in Bermuda

51 Degrees South wraps up second series

Online documentary series, 51 Degrees South, returned for a second run this summer, once again chronicling life in the Falkland Islands.

Filmmakers Jamie Gallant and Vern Cummins from Chicago in the U.S. set out to focus on the community and rural culture of the Islands from a personal perspective.

Each episode features the daily life and work of a different Islander.

Comprising six film shorts, the new series examined the work of the fire and police services, as well as individual stories from people like Sorrel Pompert Robertson, who represented the Islands at this year's Island Games in Bermuda.

Mr Gallant said of the series, "We feel incredibly privileged to have returned to the Islands to once again shine a light on a culture that, no matter how small, challenging or remote its existence may be, continues to command the attention of nations around the world."

Reserve Firefighter Caris Stevens, who features in episode two, spoke about providing a service for an area covering roughly half the size of Wales, with just one brigade.

Ms. Stevens said, "I really enjoyed



Caris Stevens

being filmed for the programme because it gave me the opportunity to explain just how unique our way of life is here. What is great about 51 Degrees is that it really captures the spirit of the Falkland Islands as a close knit, resourceful community."

Ensuring the same high production quality across all episodes in such a remote location presented a challenge in itself for the film makers, who had support from a number of partners. Land Rover Chicago loaned the duo a Defender to travel to and around the Islands and help was also provided by optical specialists Zeiss, who supplied the camera equipment that helped to capture the stunning landscape.

All episodes from both series are available to watch at www.51degreessouth.com.

Sir Rex Hunt Memorial

The life for former Governor, Sir Rex Hunt CMG, was celebrated in June at the Central Church of the Royal Air Force, St Clement Danes. Tributes from all over the world were paid to Sir Rex following his death last November and the service attracted similar eulogies.

Foreign Secretary, William Hague, sent a tribute to the service, which was attended by Sir Rex's widow, Lady Mavis Hunt and family, Falkland Islands Government Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE, and many friends, Islanders and former colleagues, as well as members of the Armed services and veterans from 1982.

Mr Hague's tribute recalled Sir Rex's tenacious repetition of Islanders' wishes in the run up to the 1982 Conflict and said he believed "his friends and family can take great comfort that, as the events of thirty years ago recede into an increasingly distant past, Sir Rex and his reputation rest firmly on the right side of history."

Sir Rex was Governor of the Falkland Islands from 1980 to 1985.

Islanders welcome a new heir

To mark the birth of the first son of the TRH Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, gifts were sent on behalf of the Legislative Assembly and the people of the Falkland Islands to welcome the newest heir to the British throne. The gifts included a sheepskin, naturally tanned by Woolmore Sheepskin Products at Hill Cove, and a hand woven shawl, which was produced in Darwin using local yarn from Swan Inlet.

Fine wool producer Andre Short of Swan Inlet said he was "proud and honoured" to have his product, Blacker Swan Wool, sent to the Royal couple and hoped that one day he would see the baby enjoying its warm but lightweight quality. The wool used to create the shawl is a shade called Pale Maiden, named after the Falkland Islands national flower.

New Commander for British Forces

The new Commander of British Forces South Atlantic Islands (CBFSAI), Air Commodore Russell La Forte, has taken up his position at the Headquarters at Mount Pleasant. Responsible for the continued defence of the Falkland Islands, Air Commodore La Forte's remit also extends to overseeing security arrangements for the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia, in a unique role that sees him take charge of all three UK military forces.

Previously based at RAF High Wycombe, the new CBFSAI had previously spent time in the Islands on exercise with the RAF. In a message to Islanders broadcast on the British Forces Broadcasting Service, Air Commodore La Forte reiterated the military position in the Islands: "Let there be no misunderstanding, we have the means and the resolve to defend the Islands if called upon." He went on to say that "There are 3,000 reasons why we are here, and that is the Falkland Islanders and the defence of their right to self-determination."

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



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



Falklands Focus

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 94

April 2014

General Election

The Election for the Legislative Assembly took place on 7th November 2013 with a higher than average voter turn-out (75.4% for Stanley and 85.2% for Camp), an increased social media presence during campaigning, and the first full-time Assembly, this truly was a unique and important election in Islands history.

The change from part-time to full-time MLAs reflects the way in which the role of an MLA has developed in recent years, and is indicative of the democratic and political growth of the Falkland Islands.

During the campaign process, candidates lobbied hard for increased government transparency; one of the first changes implemented since the election is the televising of public meetings and the Legislative Assembly. Other changes introduced include weekly MLA surgeries, portfolio reporting during Legislative Assembly and an increase in the frequency of Executive Council meetings.

For the Camp Constituency, MLAs Roger Edwards and Ian Hansen were returned with 162 and 129 votes respectively, and they were joined by first-time MLA Phyl Rendell, who won her



Legislative Assembly Members: L to R: Back Row: Hon. Roger Edwards, Hon. Ian Hansen, Hon. Mike Summers OBE, Hon. Gavin Short, Hon. Michael Poole. Hon. Dr. Barry Edwards. Front Row: Hon. Jan Cheek, Hon. Phyl Rendell MBE.

seat with 204 votes.

Returning for the Stanley constituency were MLAs Barry Elsby (893 votes), Gavin Short

(844), Mike Summers (719) and Jan Cheek (333), who were joined by a first-time MLA, Michael Poole, who won with a landslide 957 votes, believed to

be the highest number of votes in Islands history. At just 29 years old, MLA Poole is also the first MLA elected to have been born after the Falklands War.

Portfolio allocations are:

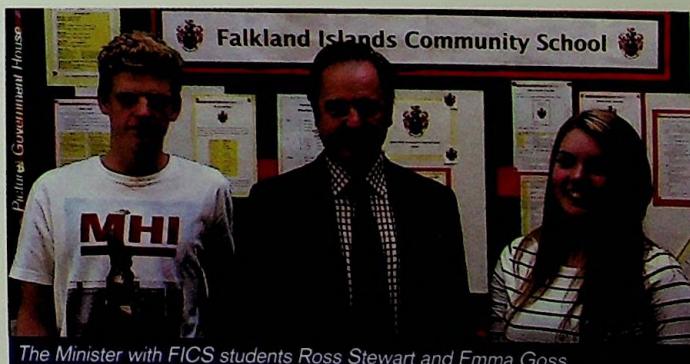
Portfolio	Portfolio-Holder	Deputy Holder
Treasury, Finance & Regulatory Services	The Hon. Roger Edwards	The Hon. Mike Summers OBE
Natural Resources	The Hon. Phyl Rendell MBE	The Hon. Ian Hansen
Central Services	The Hon. Ian Hansen	The Hon. Gavin Short
Education	The Hon. Dr Barry Elsby	The Hon. Roger Edwards
Trade & Industry	The Hon. Jan Cheek	The Hon. Michael Poole
Public Works	The Hon. Gavin Short	The Hon. Phyl Rendell MBE
Health & Public Protection	The Hon. Mike Summers OBE	The Hon. Dr Barry Elsby
Policy & Public Relations	The Hon. Michael Poole	The Hon. Jan Cheek

Strong Support During Minister's Visit

Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with responsibility for the Falkland Islands, Rt.Hon. Hugo Swire MP, visited the Islands from 11th to 14th February. Mr Swire spent his brief time in the Islands meeting with Members of Legislative Assembly, FIG Officers and members of the public.

Speaking just prior to his visit, Mr Swire reaffirmed the United

Kingdom's support for the Islands, and condemned Argentine tactics of economic blockades and harassment as "shameful." In a press conference at Government House, Mr Swire spoke of the opportunities that hydrocarbons exploration in the Islands could bring to international companies, and welcomed the fact that those companies already operating in the Islands "are not prepared to be bullied by Argentina."



The Minister with FICS students Ross Stewart and Emma Goss

Latin American Parliamentarians visit the Islands

As part of an increased Public Diplomacy effort, the Falklands have welcomed Parliamentary delegations from Panama, Brazil and Uruguay in recent months.

The visitors had busy programmes, meeting with local business people as well as Members of the Legislative Assembly and Government representatives. The delegations discussed potential trade partnerships, economic blockade tactics by Argentina, and the future of business and politics for the Falklands.

Diputada Dalia Bernal, leading the Panamanian delegation, spoke of the importance of being able to see the reality of the Falklands, and of how the Referendum (held in March 2013) gave credibility to the Islanders' political cause. As a result of the trip, the Falkland Islands-Panamanian Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group was established in October 2013.

The Brazilian delegation were surprised by what they learnt during their visit, particularly contradicting Argentine "strong

propaganda" and the cultural differences between the Islands and South America. Joanisval Brito Goncalves, a Senior Legislative Counsellor for the Senate in Brazil, said "Do not overestimate Argentina. We know Argentina and the way they deal with situations". This was alongside comments that Argentina and Brazil are brother countries,

but not necessarily friends.

Historical links with Uruguay brought a strong positive message, and the group was keen to set up new links with the Falklands, primarily regarding trade, port development and education. Diputado Jaime Trobo, who had visited the Islands previously for the Referendum,

was glad to have the opportunity for a follow up visit. The Uruguayans spoke of the potential for an air link that would avoid Argentine air space and improve the obtainability of fresh produce, as well as increasing tourism. They hoped that strong connections could be built and that Uruguay would continue to stand up to Argentina.



The delegation from Uruguay with Members of the Legislative Assembly

Attorneys General Conference 2013

In November the Falklands hosted the Overseas Territories Attorney Generals Conference for the first time. Delegates from eleven Overseas Territories

and Crown Dependencies were present, discussing various issues directed at upholding good governance and respect for the law.

There was also a focus on implementing and following through commitments made at the G8 with priority on Trade, Tax and Transparency. Attorney

General for England & Wales, Rt.Hon. Dominic Grieve QC MP, led the conference and said that he had been keen for it to be hosted in the Falkland Islands, in order to demonstrate the UK Government's commitment to supporting a democratic, self-governing Overseas Territory.

When speaking about the current political situation Mr Grieve told Penguin News, "The Argentines are behaving irrationally and not very well," adding that it would be good to see an improvement in relations because, "in the long term both the Islands and Argentina would benefit from greater co-operation, but that is not at the price of sovereignty."

The Attorneys General took the time to visit Bluff Cove Farm, giving them an opportunity to see the Falklands from a local perspective during their busy conference schedule.



The Attorneys General with Members of the Legislative Assembly

MLA Mike Summers' trip to Australia/New Zealand

In January MLA Mike Summers undertook a public diplomacy visit to Australia and New Zealand. Marking the first time an MLA had travelled to the region in a political capacity, MLA Summers called on local politicians, news agencies and academic institutions during his tour. Particularly poignant was a visit to Palmerston North Boys School, where MLA Summers paid homage to Richard Absolom, an alumnus of the School and member of 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment, who was killed in action during the Falklands War.

Queen's Baton Relay

From 27th February to 1st March, the Falkland Islands proudly hosted the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay. The Baton is travelling around 70 Commonwealth nations and territories over 288 days in the run up to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in July/August.

The Baton and the Games' mascot, a thistle named Clyde, were greeted by children from the Clyde class at Mount Pleasant School. From there, a British International Helicopter transferred the relay to HMS Clyde in Stanley Harbour.

During its brief visit the Baton was carried by horse riders, shearers, Commonwealth Games & Youth Games athletes, members of various sporting clubs, and students of Stanley's schools. Commonwealth Games athletes



Picture: FIOGA

Louise Williams, a member of the Badminton team, with the Baton

and World Shearing Championship finalists met the relay at Volunteer Point, along with hundreds of King penguins. A trip to Kidney Island was also arranged, so that the visitors escorting the Baton could see more Falklands wildlife, before motocross riders displayed their skills at the Stone Corral.

A piece of Scottish granite with the Glasgow 2014 logo was

taken from the top of the Baton and presented to the people of the Falkland Islands at a Government House reception. Similar presentations will take place in every nation/territory that the Baton visits.

The Falkland Islands will send badminton players, lawn bowlers and shooters to the upcoming Games.

Farewell to His Excellency The Governor



HE the Governor at his farewell parade

After almost four years, the Falklands have said farewell to HE the Governor, Nigel Haywood CVO, thanking him for his efforts during his tenure. Mr Haywood was a dynamic and interactive member of the community, sharing enthusiasm for the environment, and running in the annual Standard Chartered Marathon amongst other events.

In an interview with Penguin News before his departure, Mr Haywood told them that he has real optimism for the future of the Islands and the potential positive aspects of oil development, such as encouraging young people back to the Islands, and focusing on building knowledge based (particularly scientific) economic activities. He thought that the combined efforts of the Government, the Legislative Assembly and the Foreign Office,

in creating a Public Diplomacy plan, which aims to combat misbeliefs spread by Argentina, both by sending politicians overseas and by encouraging visitors (including politicians, journalists and academics) to the Falklands to see them for themselves, had been very successful.

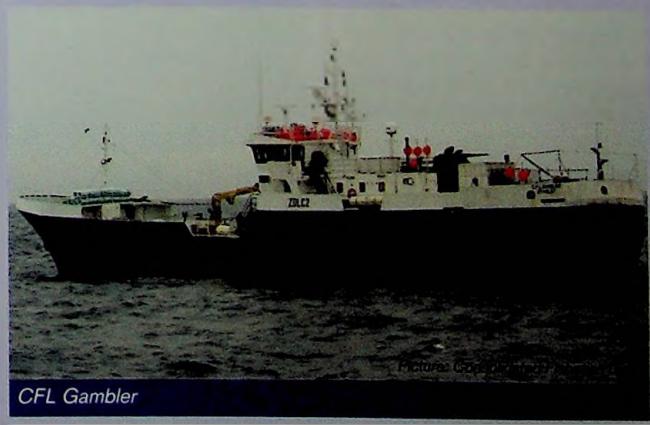
Mr Haywood's successor, Colin Roberts CVO, will arrive in the Islands in late April; John Duncan OBE has been appointed Acting Governor for the interim period. Mr Duncan is the Governor Designate of the British Virgin Islands, a post he will take up in mid-2014. He is currently attached to the Overseas Territories Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Mr Duncan was previously Deputy and then acting Head of the former South Atlantic Dependant Territories and Antarctic Department from 1996-98.

MSC Certification for Consolidated Fisheries Limited

For the first time in the history of Falklands fisheries, a local fishing company has been accredited by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). Established in 1994, Consolidated Fisheries Ltd. operates one long-liner fishing vessel, CFL Gambler, whose sole target stock is Patagonian Toothfish. MSC Standard scrutinises the environmental impact of the fishery, the sustainability of the fish stocks, and the administration systems in place to manage the fisheries. In addition to the accreditation conditions, CFL voluntarily agreed to conduct

research into the identity of the stock in Falklands waters.

This accreditation is testament to the Falkland Islands' commitment to sustainable fisheries, scientific research and environmental responsibility. Chairman of CFL, Tom Blake, welcomed the news, "We are delighted that the Falklands toothfish fishery has gained MSC certification. Whilst we have always had every confidence in the standards of fisheries management within our zones, it is pleasing to see that this has been recognized under a highly-respected and valued international certification programme."



CFL Gambler

New faces in Government



Krysteen Ormond

The past few months have seen several new faces appointed to the Falkland Islands Government. Attorney General Mark Lewis finished his contract in March, and his successor Peter Judge has arrived and is settling in. Krysteen Ormond has been appointed the Public Relations & Media Manager and Emily Hancox has been appointed as the first substantive Public Relations & Media Liaison. At a Directorship level, Annie Tempest assumed the role Director of Education and Graeme Jackson became the first Director of Human Resources. Speaking of his appointment, Mr Jackson said, "My aim is to ensure that the Falkland Islands Government maintains a highly motivated and engaged workforce focused on delivering high quality services to the people of the Falkland Islands. We do this recognising that there is virtually no unemployment in the Islands and our economic ambitions are such that we will need to attract people into the Islands for the foreseeable future. This is no easy feat being 8000 miles from the UK but there are tremendous opportunities for anyone who is not afraid of a challenge or hard work."

"We are Falklands" Exhibition

An exhibition of Falklands photography, by local and international photographers, will take place this July, to showcase all aspects of Islands life. The exhibition will be hosted at the Threadneedle space in the Mall Galleries, London from 21st to 27th July.

For more information, please visit www.mallgalleries.org.uk

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www.falklands.gov.fk



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk

100th Anniversary of the Stanley Sports

Stanley Sports Association celebrated the centenary of the Christmas races in December. The event was cancelled in 2012 due to heavy rain, however, this year the sun and wind dried the course sufficiently for the event to go ahead. The Christmas Races are amongst the Falklands' oldest traditions, and always draw a good crowd on Boxing Day. Whilst there are fewer jockeys competing at the sports these days, the past 100 years have seen some strong competition from horses and participants alike. Renowned race commentator Patrick Watts MBE presented former Governor's Cup winners with medals, to celebrate the history of the sports and this prestigious race.

Picture: Sharon Jaffay



Ron Binnie, jockey for over 50 years, on Southern Dancer

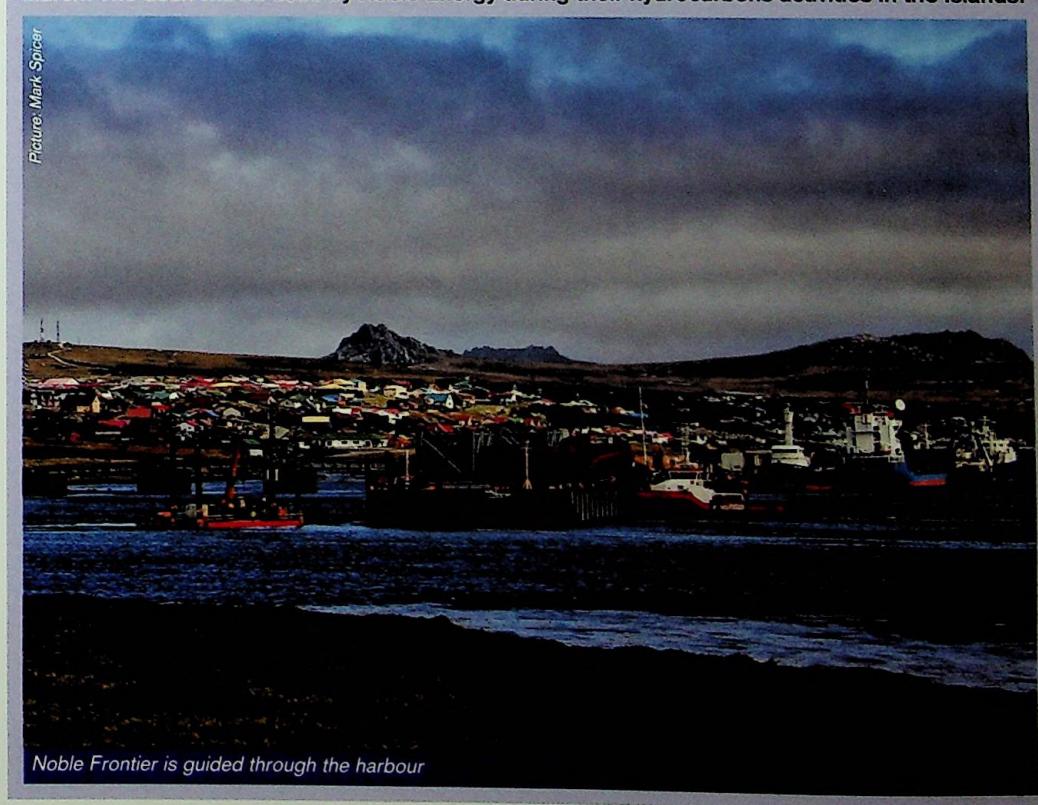
New Year Honours

Government House Chef, Anita Browning, was recognised in the New Year Honours list with the award of a British Empire Medal, in recognition of her long service to Government House. Anita joined the staff of Government House upon leaving school, and has sustained eight Governors and their families to date.

Also recognised in the New Year Honours were Martin Collins, Chief Executive of the South Georgia Government (based in Stanley) who received the Order of the British Empire for his services to conservation in South Georgia, and Prof. Jim McAdam received the Order of the British Empire for his services to research and agriculture in the Falkland Islands and for his work with the UK FI Trust.

Temporary floating dock, Noble Frontier, arrived in Stanley Harbour in the early morning of 28th March. The dock will be used by Noble Energy during their hydrocarbons activities in the Islands.

Picture: Mark Spicer



Noble Frontier is guided through the harbour



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Issue 95

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Public Diplomacy Programme continues apace

The eight Assembly Members (MLAs) have had a very busy travel programme this year as part of the public diplomacy initiative, with one Member, Hon. Roger Edwards, travelling close to 90,000 miles in just over two months and clocking up around 180 hours in the air.

In May, MLA Edwards attended the Pre-UN Committee on Decolonisation (C24) conference in Fiji, before joining Hon. Mike Summers OBE MLA at the substantive meeting of the Committee in New York in mid June. At the meeting, MLA Summers addressed Chairman Xavier Lasso Mendoza, of Ecuador, and reminded him that his predecessor considered it critical to visit Territories on the decolonisation list so that the concerns of the people could be heard and informed conclusions made.

"We have formally invited you again this year, and are assured that the UK, as administering power, will not object. And nor do we set conditions on the makeup of the delegation. If Argentina objects it can only be that it continues to be afraid of the truth, of openness and transparency, and of the power of basic human rights," added MLA Summers.

"We have invited the Committee to send a mission to the Falkland Islands on many occasions before. We have not even had the courtesy of a response."

The C24 was specifically not charged with mediating in or determining any sovereignty disputes, said MLA Summers, adding: "Upholding the basic human rights of the people of the Non Self Governing Territories is your single and solemn duty."

MLA Edwards reiterated the message he had given at the Pre-C24 meeting in Fiji. He told the Committee that the Falklands



MLA Dr. Barry Elsby, accompanied by Political Aide Melanie Gilding, meet Parliamentarians in El Salvador

enjoyed a modern relationship with the UK and that the people of the Falklands do not consider themselves to live in a colony. He outlined the Islands history and highlighted that the Falklands have had British sovereignty since 1765.

MLAs Edwards and Summers urged the Committee to listen to the wishes of the people of the Falkland Islands, and their democratic decision to remain a British Overseas Territory.

The MLAs went on to spend time in Washington, where, amongst other appointments, they took part in a lively Q&A session with not-for-profit think-tank, the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA).

First-time MLAs, Hon. Michael Poole and Hon. Phyl Rendell MBE, travelled to London in June to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Westminster Seminar, designed to help new Parliamentarians familiarise themselves with Parliamentary practices. In July, MLA Edwards visited Brussels to meet with newly-elected MEPs before accompanying Falkland Islands Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE, to Grand Cayman for the Pre-Joint Ministerial Conference meeting.

In August, Hon. Dr. Barry Elsby MLA flew to Medellin, Colombia,

to undertake a Spanish immersion course, before continuing around Colombia, Panamá, Guatemala, and El Salvador on a public diplomacy tour. As the Member with responsibility for Education, MLA Elsby was keen to discuss bilingualism in schools with Panamanian officials, following a presidential decision to make all Panamanian secondary schools bilingual. He also met with Parliamentarians, academics and opinion formers and undertook interviews with the media. The purpose of the visit was to promote the Islanders' right to self determination and highlight the economic opportunities in the Islands.

At the end August, MLA Poole, accompanied by Environmental Officer, Nick Rendell, flew to Samoa to attend the third UN Small Island Developing States (SIDS) conference. The conference attracted more than 2,000 delegates from around 100 countries. Climate change, organic farming practices and a wide range of approaches to sustainable development were subjects under discussion. MLA Poole said that they had also discussed communications challenges and the difficulties of remoteness with some 52 countries in the group facing similar challenges to the Falklands.

New Islands Plan

A new Islands Plan has been produced to outline the ambitions and priorities for the current Legislative Assembly across the whole of the Falkland Islands Government and their vision for the Islands.

The Islands Plan 2014-2018 is, in effect, a statement of intent to help guide Government decision-making in all sectors of development and service. Presented as a twenty six page booklet, and available in both Spanish and English, it is also an opportunity to communicate the aims and ambitions of the Falkland Islands Government internationally.

In the foreword, all Assembly Members agree that they are committed to responsible management of the Government budget for the benefit of all residents.

It is acknowledged that there are challenges that need to be addressed, such as an ageing population and sustaining a local labour market in the face of hydrocarbons industry development, which will bring an increasing need for short-term contract workers. However, Hon. Phyl Rendell MBE MLA said "We must work hard to ensure that the desire for such an industry becomes a reality, and to ensure that the Islands are prepared to manage its implications – on our economy, our society and our environment."

Recognising that there is enormous potential in the Islands, as in previous Islands Plans, great emphasis has been put on sustaining high standards of education and healthcare and conserving the natural environment at the forefront of economic plans to develop. MLA Rendell said "We have a duty to ensure that all residents can lead safe and healthy lives – especially our children."

Historic Dockyard Museum opens

After years of planning and with support from sponsors, the public and the Falkland Islands Government, the Falkland Islands Historical Dockyard Museum opened its doors to the public on 12th September.

The dockyard site was identified in the 1980s as a prime site for a museum as it is home to three of the first buildings in Stanley; the old jail, blacksmiths shop and the large central store, all built in the 1840s.

The historical buildings have been given new life and in turn have brought an opportunity for Falklands history to shine in well-lit, bespoke exhibits. "It really is an asset to the whole Falklands," said Museum Manager Leona Roberts.

Collections include maritime history, the 1982 Conflict, natural history, a pioneering exhibition on

Antarctic history and the Tim Simpson Memorial Gallery and reading room, in memory of former Community School Art Teacher Mirabel 'Tim' Simpson MBE.

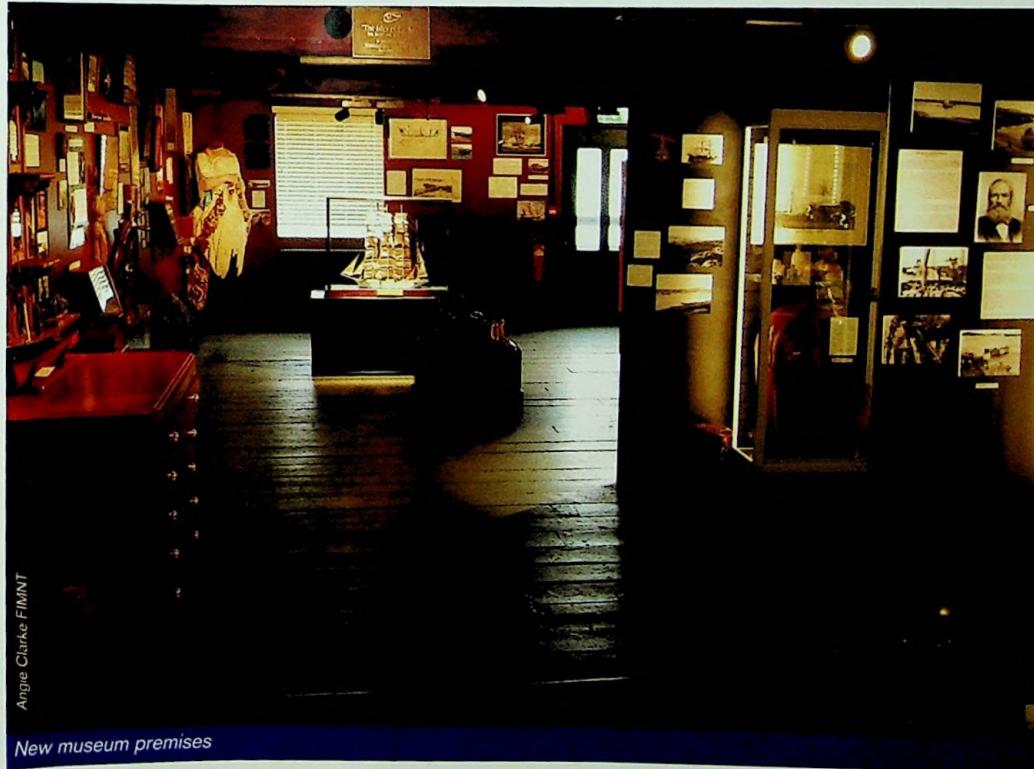
"The buildings also tell the story of the society and the cultural development of the Falklands in a way never seen before" said Mrs Roberts. Researchers have worked hard to verify personal accounts and consulted the archives and media to enrich every item on display. Many items also make their first appearance - due to a lack of space at the former premises they simply could not be displayed.

The former Radio Telecommunications (RT) hut, which is a listed building, has also been relocated to augment the site and showcases its story as a lifeline to Camp throughout the 1900s. "It's not just about collecting

items from the past, it's about showing why they are important, what story it tells and how our society has evolved from those early experiences.

"You can track the evolution of Falklands society from its earliest links and follow the history through families who have been here a long time and those that are new," said Mrs Roberts.

Special consideration was given to how best to present each exhibit, she added: "Our Antarctic exhibit is the first of its kind and in designing our 1982 exhibition we've made an effort to show experiences of the 1982 Conflict from Falkland Islanders' perspectives. The exhibit includes a lot of audio and visual elements and we hope it shows the huge impact that the invasion had on the lives of the Falkland Islands people."



Falklands Students Excel At Home and Overseas

This has been an excellent year for Falklands students, with the highest proportion of A and B grades attained in GCSEs to date. GCSE student Hannah McPhee received an incredible two A's, eight As, and a B, whilst older sister Jessica was pleased to achieve two Bs and a C in her A Levels just one week earlier.

Director of Education, Annie Tempest, has praised the efforts of all students for their hard work and determination, and thanked teaching staff for their dedication to the pupils.

Clare Cockwell has been awarded the prestigious Chevening Scholarship to study a Masters in Biodiversity, Conservation and

Management at Hertford College, Oxford. Clare is only the second Islander to receive the Scholarship, which her brother-in-law Sam was awarded in 2012.

Following a gruelling application process, teenager Tegan Curtis has been given the Falklands first full scholarship to study for an international baccalaureate at the

Falklands Shearers compete at the World Championships



The Falkland Islands Shearing Association travelled to Ireland this year to compete at the shearing and wool handling world championships The Golden Shears. The event was held in Gorey, Co. Wexford, over four days, with 300 shearers from 27 countries competing and the small Falklands gang held their own against the top names in the world.

Representing the Islands were shearers Jan and Stefen Clarke, and wool handlers Vikki Lee and Sammy Lee Hirtle. Stefen put in an incredible performance and claimed second prize in the Golden Shears Plate. Wool handler Sammy qualified second in her heat for the All Nations competition and eventually picked up 8th place overall.

renowned United World College South East Asia in Singapore. The Islands have an existing relationship with United World College Atlantic in Wales, but this will be the first time UWC has offered a full scholarship and Tegan will be the first Islander to study in Singapore.

'Outstanding Taste' award for Falklands squid

For the third consecutive year, Loligo squid caught by companies in joint ventures with Beauchêne Fishing Co Ltd, has won the award for 'Outstanding Taste' from the International Taste & Quality Institute during the Seafood Exposition in Brussels. The judging is carried out by blind taste-test, and judges look for appearance, texture, smell and taste.

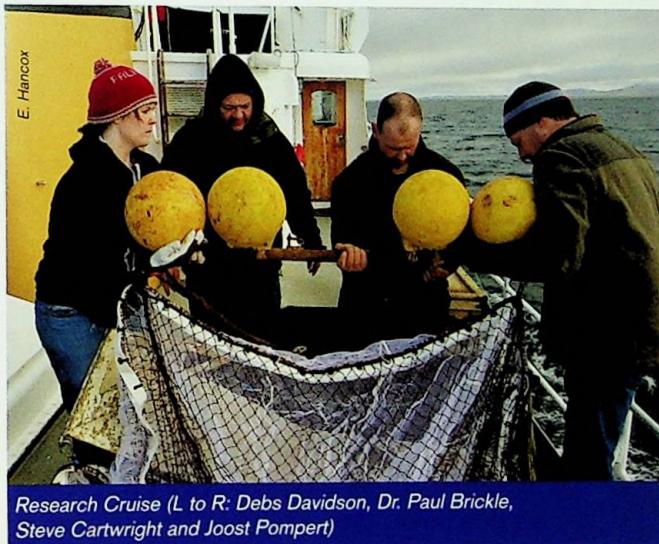
Owner and Director of Beauchêne Fishing, Mrs Cheryl Roberts, was thrilled to have been presented with the

prestigious award once again: "I am delighted to have our products recognised at the annual Brussels Seafood Expo. It demonstrates the hard work and dedication to quality shown by all, from our fishing vessel crews through to marketing managers."

In other fishing news, the Fisheries Department in Stanley has reported the largest annual catch of Illex squid since the fishery opened in 1987; some 270,000 tonnes were caught last season.



Staff expansion at SAERI



Research Cruise (L to R: Debs Davidson, Dr. Paul Brickle, Steve Cartwright and Joost Pompert)

November will see the second anniversary of operations at the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI). Established in March 2012, SAERI was formed with the aim of becoming a world-class academic institute and opened their doors in November 2012.

SAERI undertakes scientific research across the whole South Atlantic, from the Equator to Antarctica and a key focus is building capacity within and between the Overseas Territories in the region. The last six months have seen the staff numbers grow, at SAERI's main base in the Islands, to include three Marine Ecologists and a full-time PhD student to be based there alongside the existing team (currently four PhD students

based in Aberdeen co-locate in the Islands). Director, Dr. Paul Brickle, said that recruitment is on-going for an Ecologist Project Officer to develop an Ecosystem Profile for the BEST III Initiative (Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services in Territories of Europe Overseas).

A key undertaking for SAERI at present is a 'GAP Project' addressing gaps in the understanding of the ecosystem around the Islands as offshore hydrocarbons develop. This project is testament to the Falkland Islands Government's commitment to ensuring any hydrocarbon activity carried out within Falklands waters is carefully managed and our biodiversity is protected.

Top Jobs for Islanders

Years of training and dedication have paid off for four Islanders as they take up key roles with the Falkland Islands Government.

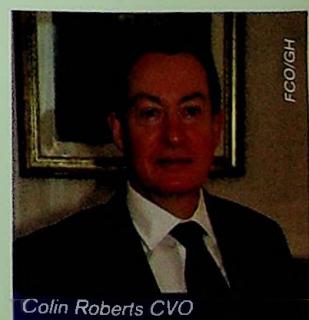
Dr Beccy Edwards, daughter of Hon. Roger Edwards MLA, has been promoted to Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Health and Social Services, becoming the most senior medical practitioner in the Islands. Inspector Len McGill was promoted to Superintendent and now serves as Chief of Police in the Royal Falkland Islands Police Force, following a policing career spanning three decades.

Young Islanders Zoran Zovic and Sean Moffatt have successfully completed their Newly-Qualified Teacher (NQT) portfolios and return to the Falklands to take up the posts of Teacher of Science and Teacher of Design Technology respectively.

Former Falklands Graduate Trainee, Samantha Brownlee, is pursuing a career in the RAF. During Samantha's Phase 1 training, earlier this year, she was made the head girl of her Flight and second in command of her section, and received the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire's trophy for best overall performance at her graduation parade.

New Governor

Colin Roberts CVO was sworn in as Governor of the Falkland Islands on 29th April. In an FCO career spanning 25 years, Governor Roberts has served as HM Ambassador to Lithuania and Director of the Overseas Territories Department. He succeeds Nigel Haywood CVO, who departed the Islands in February and has retired from the Service. Governor Roberts is married to Camilla and they have two sons. His Excellency has already immersed himself in the



Colin Roberts CVO

community by taking part in annual fundraiser the Midwinter Swim and joining the Stanley Running Club.

Ecclesiastical appointments

Two new ecclesiastical appointments have been made for the Falkland Islands; in succession to the Rt. Rev. Stephen Venner, the Rt. Rev. Nigel Stock, Bishop at Lambeth, has been appointed Bishop for the Falklands and Bishop to the Armed Forces.



Rev. Canon Roper and his wife, Christine

Annual Reception

Held at the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in June, this year saw the 40th anniversary of the annual Falkland Islands Reception in London.

The guests were addressed by the Foreign Office Minister with responsibility for Falklands affairs and Latin America, Hon. Mr Hugo Swire MP, who recounted his experience of his visit to the Islands in February this year and outlined the UK's support to Falkland Islanders in economic and diplomatic matters. "With the indefatigable spirit and tenacity of its community, the Falkland Islands are thriving in a global market. What they lack in size they more than make up for in ambition and drive," he said.

He also condemned the bullying tactics of the government of Argentina and their inappropriate stunts that have proved to be counter-productive, such as the national football team posing with a banner claiming the Islands. "All of this only goes to reinforce the Islanders' sense of unity, identity and purpose," said Mr Swire.

The event concluded with a message from Her Majesty the Queen, read out by the Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association, Mr. Alan Huckle, and the Band of the Royal Artillery Beating Retreat on the Benchers Lawn.

Currently at Holy Trinity Broadstairs in Kent, the Rev. Canon David Roper, has been appointed as the next Anglican Rector of the Falkland Islands. He succeeds the Rev. Dr. Richard Hines, who left the Islands in August after seven years in the post. Canon Roper, accompanied by his wife, Christine, will take up the post later in the year.

Rev. Hines will feature in the next series of the popular BBC2 series "An Island Parish" which was filmed in the Islands earlier this year.

Falklands Films

Following the success of his "Falklands30" series, which has had over 200,000 hits on YouTube to date, independent film-maker Oly Dempster returned to the Falklands in January to film a second series of short videos. Oly, and his colleague, Duncan Lees, spent ten days travelling around the Islands filming local people and using innovative techniques and GoPro cameras to capture unusual and fascinating footage. This new series aired in April and focuses on outdoor activities, such as kitesurfing, diving and fishing. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6oqw_34gQc)

Photographic Exhibition

An exhibition of photographs taken in the Falkland Islands was held in July at the Mall Galleries in London. The images were selected through a competition held in the Islands and co-ordinated by the Falkland Islands Government Office in London and Public Relations Office in Stanley. The winning photographs were selected from photographers all over the world, including the Falklands, UK, Australia and Hungary amongst others.

Catering on the launch night included local kingclip and squid courtesy of Fortuna Ltd. The exhibition itself was supported by Momart Ltd, a subsidiary of Falkland Islands Holdings plc.

On display for a week, the exhibition generated huge media and social media interest. Plans are underway to use the photographs in further events to be announced at a later date.



Chartres Hill Gap by Grizelda Cockwell

Commonwealth Games



Falkland Islands Team

The largest ever squad of Falkland Islands athletes travelled to Glasgow in July to compete in badminton, shooting events and lawn bowls at the XX Commonwealth Games.

Though no medals were won, the team of twenty four athletes and

their supporters, shared an excellent experience celebrating with the other Commonwealth nations.

Summing up the tournament, Chair of the Overseas Games Association, Hon. Mike Summers OBE MLA told the Penguin News: "The games have been a

great success for the Falkland Islands. In sporting terms our teams have performed well and to the best of their ability. There has been progress in all areas." He went on to say that the team had represented the Falklands with distinction, and had been very popular all round.

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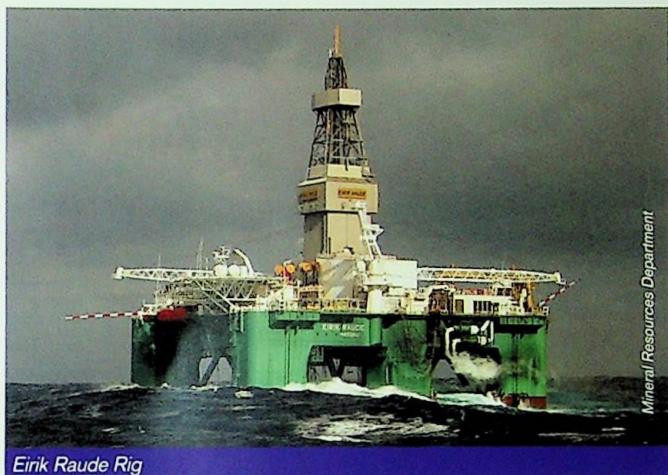
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Rig arrives in Islands



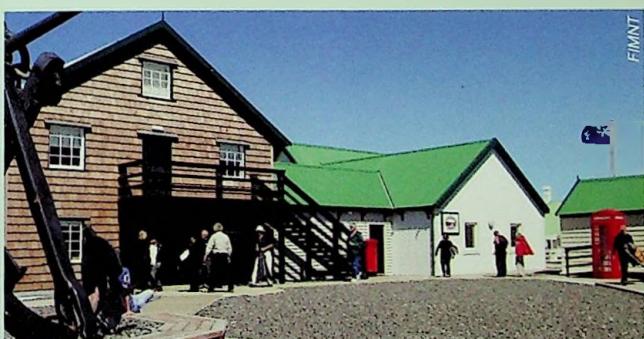
Eirik Raude Rig

Semi-submersible drilling rig Eirik Raude arrived in the Falklands in early March to kick off the latest offshore exploration campaign in the Islands.

The campaign will comprise of four wells to be drilled in the North Falklands Basin by Premier Oil, and two wells to be drilled in the South Falklands Basin by

Noble Energy. Further option wells may also be drilled but have not been confirmed. All wells are exploration wells and will aim to find new discoveries, but those in the north will also provide valuable geological data to take the Sea Lion discovery forward to production, which is scheduled for 2019.

Historic Dockyard Museum Shortlisted for International Award



The Historic Dockyard Museum, opened in September 2014 by the Falkland Islands Museum & National Trust, has been shortlisted for the prestigious International Award in the Museum + Heritage Awards 2015. The awards will be presented on 29th April in London.

Museum Manager Leona Roberts said "We are absolutely thrilled to have been shortlisted

for this award. It's a tremendous honour for the museum and far more than we dared hope for."

A massive effort went into creating the Historic Dockyard Museum and we have been delighted by the reactions of our visitors – whether local, military or tourist, young or old. Visitor numbers are up and we are also seeing frequent repeat visits by Islanders, which is just as important to us".

Science Symposium

A group of 16 scientists from across the Americas travelled to the Falkland Islands to participate in the first Falkland Islands Science Symposium, hosted by the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI).

States diplomat and ornithologist Ray Arnaudo. The group was accompanied by Andrew Howley of the National Geographic.

During the symposium, several memoranda of understanding were signed between SAERI and other institutions, and it is hoped a second symposium will take place in the future to further develop these links.



Falkland Islands Science Symposium participants

'A Young Commonwealth' Celebrated

Commonwealth Day, on 9th March, was observed in Westminster and in Stanley. Sixth Form students Kalon Jaffray and Jessica McPhee joined representatives of Youth Parliaments from across the globe at a service at Westminster Abbey, followed by a programme of Parliamentary activities highlighting the theme of 'A Young Commonwealth'.

In Stanley, primary school children gathered with the Speaker of the House to 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' on Stanley's waterfront.

Eight members of the Falkland Islands Community School then

held a Youth Parliament in the Assembly Chambers, with each taking the role of a Member of Legislative Assembly, accompanied by the Chief Executive, Financial Secretary and the Attorney General, who all ordinarily sit on the Assembly. Speaker of the House, Mr Keith Biles, assumed the role of Clerk of the Youth Parliament. Motion 1 of 2015 'This House Believes the age of voting should be reduced to 16 years' was debated, with the ayes winning five votes to three.

The Youth Parliament, their friends and family were then hosted by His Excellency the Governor at a reception at Government House.



Youth Commonwealth participants in the Islands

Training Links with Trinidad & Tobago

Professional links with the islands of Trinidad & Tobago have gone from strength to strength, with the attendance of a delegation from the Falkland Islands at the annual Trinidad & Tobago Energy Conference in January.

The delegation, comprised of public and private sector educators, was headed by Member of Legislative Assembly Hon. Ian Hansen, who holds the regional portfolio for the Caribbean. MLA Hansen has visited Trinidad & Tobago three times in the past eighteen months, and hosted a delegation of training providers from Trinidad in the Falkland Islands in late November. A significant outcome from the most recent visit to Trinidad & Tobago is the offer of two paid scholarships for Falklands trainees to attend the National Energy Skills Center in Point Lisa, a state-overseen tertiary training centre associated with hydrocarbons. Memoranda of Understanding have been arranged with the Kenson Production Group and the Falkland Islands Training Centre, which would see Kenson School of Production Technology supporting training efforts in the public-sector training facility in the Islands.



FICS Headteacher Martin Winward, HHSL Tony Vieira, Invenio Steve Dent, Beth Dent and MLA Hansen

OCTA Forum

Over one hundred delegates met in the British Virgin Islands, from 25th - 27th February, for the annual Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) Ministerial meeting and EU-Forum. The Association is made up of twenty two members from four member states - United Kingdom, France, Netherlands and Denmark - and meets to promote in-depth dialogues on topics of mutual interest relating to the European Union.

The Falkland Islands were represented by the Hon. Roger Edwards MLA, Jamie Fotheringham, Director of Policy and Sukey Cameron MBE, UK Representative. During a session on 'Unlocking the value of the OCTs' Jamie Fotheringham gave a presentation on the South Atlantic Research Institute (SAERI) as a Centre of



MLA Roger Edwards, Jacqui Christian from Pitcairn and Councillor Hon. Lawson Henry from St. Helena

Excellence and MLA Edwards took part in the panel for the session on 'Sustainable Use of Natural Resources'.

The meetings focussed on innovation, competitiveness and blue and green growth being the key factors in the sustainable

development of the OCTs and the diversification of their economies. Meetings in the margins also provided an opportunity to discuss development issues in the Falklands with other delegates and the representatives of the European Commission.

An Island Parish Screening



Post screening question and answer session

The popular BBC2 series *An Island Parish* a Tiger Aspect production will return to screens in Britain this year, focussing on the Anglican Parish in the Falkland Islands. The series will follow Rev. Dr Richard Hines as he undertakes his ministerial duties across the archipelago, as well as covering events in the lives of ordinary Falkland Islanders, including a wedding, the start of the fishery season and the popular Boxing Day races. The first episode will be shown on BBC2 on Friday 27th March at 8pm.

Joint Ministerial Council



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hugo Swire MP and MLA Roger Edwards

Hon. Roger Edwards MLA attended the annual Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) held in London on the 2nd and 3rd December, accompanied by colleagues Jamie Fotheringham, FIG Director of Policy and Sukey Cameron MBE, UK Representative. One of the key roles of the event is to

bring together political leaders from the Overseas Territories and UK Ministers. The event was hosted by FCO Minister for the Overseas Territories, James Duddridge MP.

The JMC is the principle forum for reviewing and implementing the shared strategy for promoting the security and good

governance of the Territories and their sustainable economic and social development. Following the forum, MLA Edwards said "It is always useful to meet up with colleagues from the other Overseas Territories and to be able to discuss areas of mutual interest with HMG."

New Director of Public Works



Colin Summers

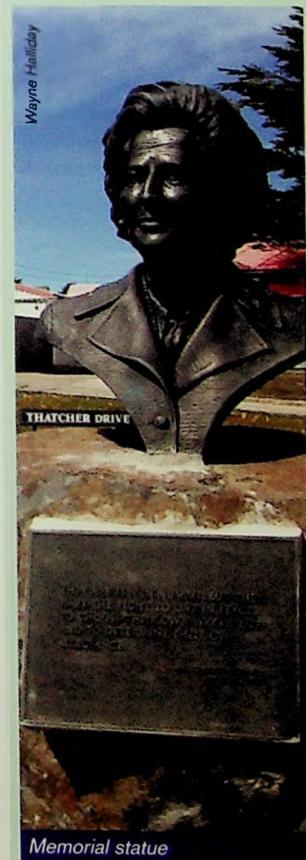
Colin Summers has been appointed the Director of Public Works for the Falkland Islands Government, after serving as Deputy Director since May 2013. Colin, who is a seventh generation Islander, has a Masters degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Exeter and spent six years working in the United Kingdom as a project manager for the Day Group Ltd, before returning to the Islands with his wife Jo and

their children. Speaking of his appointment, Colin said, "I am both honoured and proud to be appointed to the role of Director of Public Works. It has always been my ambition to return to the Islands and to give something back for the support received during my education. PWD has a vital role to play both in supporting the community and the continued development of the Islands and I am looking forward to the challenges ahead."

Statue Unveiled

A memorial to the late Baroness Thatcher was unveiled in Stanley on 10th January, the date recognised locally as 'Margaret Thatcher Day.' The memorial, a bronze bust supported on a cairn-like plinth of local stone, was commissioned by the Falkland Islands Government in 2013. Steve Massam, a sculptor and taxidermist, created the bronze likeness, the first he had ever sculpted. The memorial was unveiled by Sir Mark Thatcher who visited the Islands specifically for the occasion.

The plinth supports a bronze plaque, designed in conjunction with Saul Zivic of Stone River Creative Design, bearing the words spoken by Margaret Thatcher on April 3rd 1982 "*They are few in number, but they have a right to live in peace, to choose their own way of life and to determine their own allegiance.*"



Memorial statue

250th Anniversary



Port Egmont ceremony

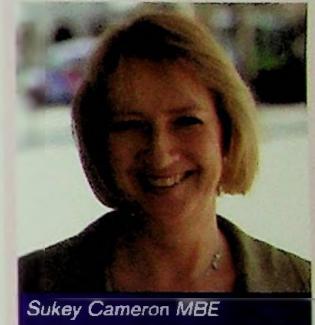
January 2015 marked 250 years since Captain John Byron first laid claim to the Falkland Islands in the name of the British Crown. The original landing took place at what is now known as Port Egmont on Saunders Island, West Falkland, after Byron's vessel, *Dolphin*, had spent several days in the harbour.



Port Egmont celebrations

To commemorate the occasion, Members of Legislative Assembly, Commander British Forces, a representative of the Falkland Islands Defence Force and local historian, John Smith, travelled to Port Egmont. Lt Cmdr Luke Hayashi of the Royal Navy raised a period flag, created by Joanne Turner for the event.

A second flag-raising ceremony took place on Victory Green in Stanley, where Members of Legislative Assembly were assisted by ninth-generation children of the Falkland Islands.



Sukey Cameron MBE

At the AGM of the UK Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA), held on Thursday 12th February, Sukey Cameron MBE, Representing the Falkland Islands Government, was elected Chair. The Representative of Gibraltar, Albert Poggio OBE, was elected Honorary Secretary and Chris Carnegy, Representing Tristan da Cuhna, was elected as the Honorary Treasurer.

Sukey Cameron, who last served as Chair between 2009 and 2010, said, "I feel honoured to have been elected to Chair UKOTA for the coming year. It is going to be a busy period with the General Election here in the UK and there are important issues facing the Territories. I look forward to working with my colleagues to further cement the relationship of the UK OTs and the UK, whilst continuing to promote our individuality."

Commander British Forces

Commodore Darren Bone MA has been appointed as the next Commander British Forces South Atlantic Islands (CBFSAI), and in April will replace Air Commodore Russ LaForte who has held the post since August 2013. Commodore Bone has served in the Royal Navy since 1987 and has visited the Islands previously. Whilst BFSAI headquarters are based at Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands, the remit of the post covers all South Atlantic islands with a British Forces presence, including RAF Ascension.



Commodore Bone

College Visits

Hon. Michael Poole MLA and FIGO Deputy Representative James Marsh visited both Chichester College and Peter Symonds College in late February, meeting with key members of staff associated with the boarding houses, as well as Falkland Islanders currently studying at both institutions.

The aim of the visit was, in part, to evaluate ways in which Falklands students can be best prepared for their experience of arriving in the UK to study, as well as examining the support network that both

colleges have in place for such students, some of whom may be leaving the Islands for the first time. MLA Poole said "It was great to meet with some of our students, and they had some very good points to make about ways in which we can help to improve the transition for our Year 10 and 11 pupils". Both MLA Poole and Mr Marsh had completed their A Level studies at Peter Symonds College and were interested to see how the boarding experience, as well as the college itself, had changed in many regards since then.



Sorrel Pompett Robertson, Dean Dent, MLA Michael Poole and James Marsh

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www.falklands.gov.fk



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



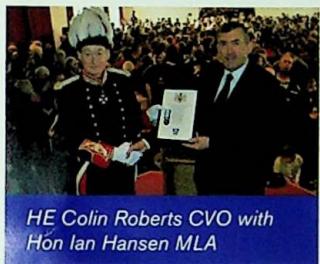
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South Atlantic Medal Award



HE Colin Roberts CVO with Hon Ian Hansen MLA

In December 2014, the Prime Minister announced that the South Atlantic Medal, originally awarded to all personnel who took part in the operations for the liberation of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia in 1982, would also be bestowed upon the people of the Falklands, in recognition of their efforts assisting the Task Force during the Conflict.

At a public reception held on Liberation Day, 14th June, the medal and citation were presented by the Islands' Governor, HE Colin Roberts CVO, on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen. The award was accepted by Chair of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon Ian Hansen MLA, for the people of the Falkland Islands.

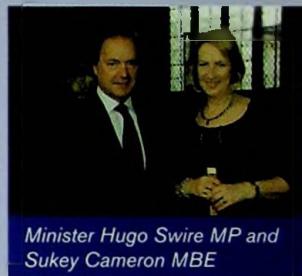
In a recorded message, the

Secretary of State for Defence, Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, said "I do want to send you my personal message of congratulation. We are reminded that had it not been for the numerous individual acts of courage, had it not been for the efforts of the Falkland Islanders themselves in supporting the Task Force, in guiding convoys, in steering tractors and Land Rovers across hostile terrain, despite blackouts and landmines and the constant fear of attack, we would not have secured that hard-won victory. In displaying courage above and beyond the call of duty you remain the best of British – an inspiration to all of us wherever we are in the world."

The medal will be on permanent display at the Falkland Islands Museum in Stanley.

In addition to this award, as a result of an independent medal review by Sir John Holmes, it was announced in October 2014 that the qualifying period for the award of the South Atlantic Medal would be extended from 12th July to 21st October 1982, to include all those who served more than 30 days in the region during this time period.

Minister Addresses Annual Reception



Minister Hugo Swire MP and Sukey Cameron MBE

Among the 250 guests at the Falkland Islands Government's annual reception in June were Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Rt Hon Hugo Swire MP, Minister for Defence Personnel, Veterans and Welfare, Mark Lancaster MP and Caroline Dinenage MP, who is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice and Minister for Equalities in the Department of Education.

Addressing the guests, Minister Swire said that he was delighted to join the gathering, thanking the Hon Jan Cheek MLA, who had introduced him, and paying tribute to the FIG Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE, for organising the event and for her "tireless

promotion" of the Islands.

The Minister went on to say "There is much cause for optimism. At this event last year, I said how delighted I was to have visited the Islands, and seen first-hand the ambition and drive of your wonderful community." He commented upon being glad to see the Islands' economy growing, as well as international awareness, highlighting the BBC TV Series 'An Island Parish' which, he said, shared "the reality of day-to-day Falklands life into British homes in a way not seen before. It showcased just how much the Islands have to offer: beauty, diversity, potential and community spirit."

Speaking of the bright future he foresees for the Islands, the Minister said that "there will be challenges but I know the Islanders will face them with the same strength, tenacity and resolve that helped them through the Conflict 33 years ago."

Following the Loyal Toast, the evening ended with a performance of Beating Retreat by the Band of the Irish Guards, with the salute being taken by Mark Lancaster MP.

All-Party Group

Following the General Election, the Falkland Islands All-Party Parliamentary Group was re-established on 17th June. The election of Officers resulted in the following appointments:

Chair	Derek Twigg	Labour
Vice Chairs	David Crosby Bob Stewart Baroness Hooper Lord Kilclooney Phil Boswell	Labour Conservative Conservative Crossbench Scottish National Party
Secretary	Andrew Rosindell	Conservative

The group was established in 1981.

Labour Leader

Members of the Legislative Assembly have written to Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP to congratulate him on becoming Leader of the Labour Party.

The letter refers to their appreciation of the All-Party support the Islands have received over the years, and their hope that this will continue under his leadership. The Falkland Islands Government look forward to meeting Mr Corbyn and his Shadow Team at the Labour Party conference in Brighton. This year will mark the twenty-eighth year of the Islands having an exhibition stand at the Party Conferences.

CPA Conference and Youth Parliament



CYP attendees Vicky Collier and Ulia Sychova

In May, the Cyprus branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) hosted the British Islands and Mediterranean Region's annual conference. The Falkland Islands were represented by the Hon Dr Barry Elsby MLA.

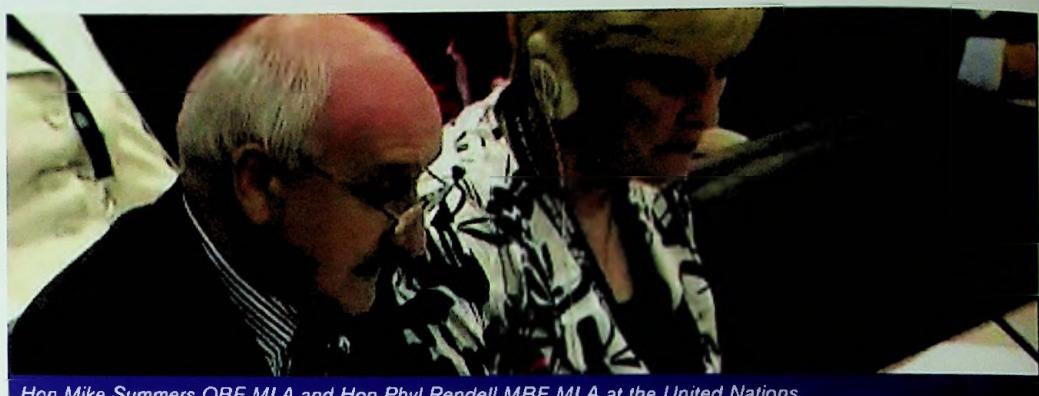
Attending Parliamentarians took part in workshops and plenary sessions tackling the theme 'Parliaments in the face of Contemporary Challenges'. Topics covered included ethics in politics, Parliaments and accountability, the advantages and disadvantages of broadcasting Parliaments, and youth unemployment and its effects.

The Falklands Islands' strong CPA links have led, over a number of years, to young Islanders attending Commonwealth Youth Parliaments (CYP). This year the Islands will be represented at the event, to be held in Australia, by Islanders Vicky Collier and Ulia Sychova.

Ms Sychova said "I'm thrilled to have been given the opportunity to attend the Commonwealth Youth Parliament this year in Darwin. I'm really excited to meet the other attendees and learn about their Commonwealth states, as well as to promote the Falkland Islands and all the great things about our community".

The Islands' Legislative Assembly sees the attendance of Islanders at CYP as very important. Not only does it provide valuable experience for the Islanders concerned, but it also enables other young members of the Commonwealth to become familiar with the realities of the situation in the Falkland Islands.

Islands Represented at United Nations



Hon Mike Summers OBE MLA and Hon Phyl Rendell MBE MLA at the United Nations

"For years the Falkland Islands have been ignored by this Committee" the Hon Michael Summers OBE MLA declared at the annual meeting of the UN Decolonisation Committee (C24). He and the Hon Phyl Rendell MBE MLA attended the session in late June and explained that pressure and propaganda from the Government of Argentina was the obstacle to the Falklands being officially freed from the Committee's list.

MLA Rendell said that it was apparent that "The ultimate goal of the Government of Argentina is to 'colonise' the Falklands against the wishes of its people. This would be exactly against what the Decolonisation Committee should stand for, and most worryingly, against human rights".

The MLAs reminded the Committee that in 2013 the Falkland Islands held an internationally observed and commended referendum in which 99.8% of those who voted expressed their desire for the Islands to remain a British Overseas Territory.

In advance of the meeting the Falkland Islands Government published a pamphlet, which set out to counter many of the Argentine myths about the sovereignty dispute, some of which are detailed below:

Argentine Myths	Falklands Facts
MYTH: Oil exploration off the Falklands without Argentine support is reckless and will harm the environment.	FACT: The Falkland Islands and Argentina agreed to work together on a number of areas of mutual interest in July 1999, including oil exploration. Sadly Argentina has since reneged on almost every aspect of this agreement, including oil exploration. The Falklands has a long history of environmental stewardship and works with globally recognised scientific institutes, as well as leaders in the oil and gas industries. This ensures best practices are followed in all areas, including health and safety and environmental management.
MYTH: The United Kingdom is 'militarizing' the South Atlantic.	FACT: The military base in the Falklands has decreased in size since 1982 and is relative to the scale of perceived threat to the Islands. Military spending on the Falklands base amounts to less than half of one percent of the overall defence budget of the United Kingdom. The Islands also offer superb training opportunities for all three branches of the Armed Services.
MYTH: The Falkland Islands remain a colony of the United Kingdom, so the principle of self-determination does not apply to its people.	FACT: The people of the Falklands have democratically devolved power from the United Kingdom. The Islands are internally self-governing and are economically self-sufficient. They are an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom.
MYTH: The Falklands Islands are an imported population of Britons.	FACT: More than 60 nationalities make up the modern Falklands population, and many Islanders can trace their lineage as far back as nine generations to early settlers of South American, Scandinavian or North American origins, as well as many being from Europe.
MYTH: The Argentines claim that a British fleet forcibly expelled an Argentine population in its entirety in 1833.	FACT: Britain first founded a settlement in the Islands in 1765. In 1833, less than three months after its arrival, a small Argentine military garrison at Port Louis was ordered to leave the Islands. All other inhabitants of the settlement were invited to remain, a fact confirmed by the Argentine report of the time. Many did so.

Territory Leaders Meet In Bermuda

Elected leaders, and/or representatives, of the Overseas Territories met in Bermuda on 23rd and 24th July. The Islands were represented by the Hon Roger Edwards MLA and Sukey Cameron MBE, FIG UK Representative and Chairman of the UK Overseas Territories Association.

They discussed issues of mutual interest and the forthcoming Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) meeting, with UK Ministers, to be held in London in December. The purpose of the JMC is to implement the principles espoused in the 2012 White

Paper on Security, Success and Sustainability, and to agree at the ministerial level on collective issues between the Overseas Territories Governments and HMG.

The agenda included measures to secure the long-term economic futures of the Overseas Territories such as: economic diversification and development; building communities and strengthening families; good governance and international affairs; global standards of financial regulation; accountability and transparency; and environmental sustainability.



Elected leaders in traditional Bermudan business attire

Speaking after the event, MLA Edwards said: "The meeting was very useful and I had good discussions with the leaders of the other territories. We explored areas that we can work on together and agreed the issues that we wish to discuss with HMG in December."

Conservation Conference in Gibraltar



Event attendees in Gibraltar

"Face-to-face conversation is worth a thousand emails," said Environmental Officer Stephen Butler, on returning from the international environmental conference, 'Sustaining Partnerships', in July. Mr Butler was part of a Falklands delegation, which included representatives from Falklands Conservation and the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute.

The conference, on conservation and sustainability in the UK Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and other small island communities, was organised by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and HM Government of Gibraltar, with support from the Joint Nature Conservation Council.

Four days of meetings and workshops provided an opportunity to hear from attending delegations about the emerging best practice in

relation to biodiversity action planning, use of terrestrial and marine resources, renewable energy and environmental impact assessment.

Other countries presented some inspiring examples, and there was great interest from attendees to hear how things are approached in the Falkland Islands. Mr Butler had the opportunity to give presentations on the experiences of those in the Islands in terms of developing wind turbines at various scales, and the ongoing Environmental Mainstreaming Project.

"The conference provided an opportunity to learn from others, promote the Falkland Islands' successes, as well as talk through areas of ongoing challenge," said Mr Butler, adding that he was now mindful that the real challenge is now to take the key points and translate them into meaningful action.

Renewable Energy Conference

The Hon Roger Edwards MLA attended the Summit of the Overseas Countries and Territories of European Union members (OCT) energy ministers on 16th and 17th June in Brussels. MLA Edwards was accompanied by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation's Rural Energy Advisor, Andrew Crighton, to provide technical advice.

The Summit was the first of its kind for Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) energy ministers, and formed part of the EU's Sustainable Energy Week. The aim of the summit was to finalise the Sustainable Energy Roadmap for OCTs, which sets out aims and guidelines for OCTA members to work towards over the next five years.

Following presentations by other OCTA members, Andrew Crighton delivered an address on 'Energy in the Falkland Islands'. The Summit closed with the signing of the finalised Roadmap by the OCT representatives.

Up to 40% of the electricity consumed in Stanley is sourced from wind turbines, and 85% of farms around the Islands have access to 24 hour power provided by renewable energy.

Local Artist To Exhibit In Major National Exhibition



*Southern Sea-Lion
by Vicky Chater*

Work by a Falklands artist, Vicky Chater, has been selected from over 1,000 submissions to appear alongside paintings by some of Britain's leading marine artists. The exhibition will be on display at the Mall Galleries near Trafalgar Square, London, between 14th and 25th October 2015.

This annual exhibition, held by the Royal Society of Marine Artists, has come to be recognised as the most prestigious and varied exhibition of marine art in the UK. The exhibition's theme is the sea and everything related to it. It will feature 330 works from emerging and well-established artists across a range of media, including oil painting, watercolour, pastels, prints, and sculpture.

For more information related to this exhibition, please visit: www.mallgalleries.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/royal-society-marine-artists-annual-exhibition-2015

For more information on Vicky Chater, please visit www.vickychaterart.com

Medals Won at the Island Games



Five medals and three Small Island Certificates were won by the Falkland Islands team at the NatWest 2015 Island Games, which took place in Jersey. This year's team was the largest ever to be sent to compete, and took part in badminton, archery, athletics, football, golf, swimming and shooting events.

The first medal won was a silver, secured in archery by Mark Lewis. Other medals were attained in shooting events by David Peck, Graham Didlick, Ken Aldridge and Gareth Goodwin.

In recognition of the disparity between the population sizes of the competing territories (Rhodes has a population of 115,000, whereas Sark consists of only 600 people), Small Island Certificates are awarded to territories with a population of less than 10,000. The Islands' football team secured two wins over the course of their group games and took a gold Small Island Certificate. Falklands shooter, Shaun Jaffray, won a silver certificate, and the golf team were awarded a bronze version.

The Falklands Shooting team, joined by compatriots from the Islands, went on to compete in the 146th Imperial Meeting held at Bisley in Surrey, following the Island Games. They secured three prestigious prizes, including the Noble Trophy as well as the Junior Kolapore Cup.

Ice Hockey Team Triumphs in Chile



The Stanley Penguins hockey team

Ice hockey is not a sport that has ever been played in the Falkland Islands, so it might seem an unlikely discipline in which the Islands could hope to win an international competition. However, despite never having actually played on ice, the Islands' first ever ice hockey team, the Stanley Penguins, recently returned from Chile with two major trophies won at the 'Copa Invernada' club hockey competition.

The Islands have had a blossoming DEK hockey club for several years, from which this team emerged. DEK hockey could be defined as a 'street' version of ice hockey, which is played indoors, either on foot or roller skates. The Copa Invernada was played exclusively on ice however.

The team is believed to be from the smallest nation to play ice hockey, and after their success, the Stanley Penguins are already planning to defend their title next year. Oddly enough, in a small echo from history, in 1908 David Baillon, who was born on West Falkland, won an Olympic Gold Medal for Britain in field hockey.

Antarctic Memorial Unveiled



A monument has been erected on the Stanley waterfront to acknowledge the Islands' historic link as a gateway for British Antarctic exploration and scientific research. The poignant memorial also bears a dedication to the 28 men and one woman of the British Antarctic Survey, and the preceding Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, who have perished in the pursuit of science since the creation of the first permanent research base in the Antarctic in 1944.

The memorial, which was created by Oliver Barrett, is made up of two parts, situated

in different hemispheres and separated by 8,000 miles. One section of the sculpture resides in the grounds of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. The piece consists of two columns of British oak that are carved and positioned to hold a long slender elliptical shape between them. The Falklands' segment is a stainless steel, mirror-polished fit for this wooden mould, on a platform with intricate engraving and surrounded by carefully selected local stone.

Chairman of the British Antarctic Monument Trust (BAMT), Roderick Rhys-Jones, said the monument was designed to lean towards the narrows of Stanley Harbour, the gateway explorers pass through on their journeys to Antarctica. In addition to the separated sculpture, BAMT have also placed a memorial plaque in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral in London.

Falkland Families Association



A service being held in the Chapel

On 18th April, the Falkland Families Association held their final Service of Remembrance and Annual General Meeting at Wellington Barracks in London.

The Association was formed in 1983, following the official UK Government sponsored pilgrimage to the Islands for the next of kin of those who died during the Falklands Conflict. The aims of the Association were to maintain and strengthen existing friendships between relatives and friends of those who died and Falkland Islanders. Two meetings have been held each year - a reunion and AGM at Wellington Barracks

in April and a memorial service at St. Paul's Cathedral in June. Financial assistance has also been made available to those relatives of the fallen who wished to visit the Islands.

"The decision to close the Association was taken very reluctantly but in the knowledge that the strong bonds and mutual support that have been formed will continue" said the Chairman, Mrs Sara Jones CBE. Members of the Association will continue to meet at the annual Falklands Service, which is held in June at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College, near Reading, and assistance for relatives to visit the Islands will come from the South Atlantic Medal Association, which supports family members as well as veterans.

SAMA

www.sama82.org.uk

FIMC

www.falklands-chapel.org.uk

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



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



Falklands Focus

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 98

March 2016

MPs Visit



Photo: Sukey Cameron

MPs meet with the Head Girl and Head Boy from the Falkland Islands Community School.

L-R Chris Matheson MP, Chloe Kripe, Matthew Hansen, Guy Opperman MP, Peter Dowd MP and David Morris MP

The Falkland Islands Government sponsored the visit of four British Members of Parliament to the Islands in February; they were accompanied by London based Falklands Representative Sukey Cameron MBE. Over the course of a week in the Islands, a packed itinerary allowed the MPs to experience a wide range of activities and learn about many aspects of life in the Falklands, as well as gain a better understanding of the work being implemented both in the public and private sectors to ensure a bright future for the Islands.

The MPs: Guy Opperman (Con), David Morris (Con), Peter Dowd (Lab) and Chris Matheson (Lab), represented both the Conservative and Labour Parties, embodying the cross party support that the people of the Falklands have enjoyed for many years. All four MPs took the opportunity throughout their visit to vocalise their support for the right of Islanders to determine their own future, which is, as was pointed out by Peter Dowd, a right enshrined in the UN Charter.

MPs visits such as this have been facilitated by FIG for many years, with the intention of enabling MPs in the UK to better understand the opportunities and challenges faced by Islanders, fostering fruitful working relationships and enabling the MPs to become more knowledgeable advocates for the Islands.

February also saw the visit to the Islands of a group of Parliamentarians on the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. The group: Flick Drummond MP (Con), Rani Jayawardena MP (Con), Antoinette Sandbach MP (Con), Brendan O'Hara MP (SNP) and Baroness Smith of Newnham (LD), spent time with members of the Armed Forces currently based in the Islands. They also visited Stanley, where they met with members of the Falkland Islands Defence Force as well as representatives of local business, the Falkland Islands Government and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Secretary of State For Defence Visit

The Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP visited the Falklands in February, becoming the first Secretary of State for Defence to do so for 14 years. His brief visit involved a two day tour of the Islands. Mr Fallon met with a number of parties and spoke on various issues. He also took the opportunity whilst in the Islands to state that he hoped that recent changes to the government of Argentina would allow a more mutually beneficial relationship between the two nations. He stated, in very clear terms, the British Government's unequivocal support for the

right of Falkland Islanders to determine their own future.

Mr Fallon, as part of his portfolio role, toured the British Forces facilities in the Islands, including the main military base, Mount Pleasant. He spoke of forthcoming spending on the infrastructure of the port facilities at Mare Harbour and a new power station at Mount Pleasant, as being in line with standards that Britain is required to meet as a member of NATO, which has a 2% of GDP spending target expected of its members in relation to defence.



L-R HE The Governor Mr Colin Roberts CVO, Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP and Hon Ian Hansen MLA

Commonwealth Walkway

Over the course of three months straddling the New Year, two brass markers forming part of the Commonwealth Walkway, were laid in Stanley, the capital of the Falkland Islands. The Commonwealth Walkway Scheme was launched by the Outdoor Trust following the success of the Jubilee Walkway in London, which formed part of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of 2012. The Chairman of the Outdoor Trust, Hugo Vickers, who was in the Islands to launch the scheme, already had strong links to the Falklands; his late aunt, Baroness Vickers, tirelessly led the fight for Falkland Islanders to receive full British Citizenship in the years prior to

1983, when they were granted that status.

An eventual aim of the organisation is to create 100 Walkways across all 71 Commonwealth Nations and Territories. The Falkland Islands are the first of the Overseas Territories to take part in the project. One of the themes of the project is to connect and inspire walkers to learn more about the diversity of the Commonwealth, and celebrate Her Majesty the Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, in a subtle way, whilst also benefitting their health. Each stone can be scanned using a free mobile device app and will offer the walker relevant information and interesting facts.

The first stone was laid outside

Government House in November 2015, the second in January 2016, which was unveiled by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal at Christ Church Cathedral in Stanley.

For further information of this project please visit <http://www.outdoortrust.com/#/walkways/c21kz>



Local children with one of the brass markers outside the Falkland Islands Community School

Princess Royal Visit

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, accompanied by her husband Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, visited the Falkland Islands in January. It was the fourth time that she had been to the Islands, with her last visit having taken place in 2009.

During what was a very busy schedule whilst in the Islands, HRH laid a wreath at the Liberation Monument in Stanley, which commemorates the end of the Falklands Conflict of 1982. A short service was led by Reverend Kathy Biles and was attended by many members of the public and various community groups. Members of the local community were also in attendance, along with Her Royal Highness, at a reception hosted by the Falkland Islands Government later in the day. Whilst in Stanley, she also unveiled the second marker of the 'Commonwealth Walkway' at Christchurch Cathedral.

HRH was also able to experience the new Falkland Islands Museum in the historic dockyard, which was a finalist in the Museum and Heritage Awards in their 'International Museum' category in 2015. Visits to the Agriculture Department, the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital and the Seamen's Mission were also undertaken.

Following her visit to the Falkland Islands HRH, who is the Royal Patron of the South Georgia Heritage Trust, and her husband travelled to South Georgia.



HRH The Princess Royal with youth groups in Stanley

Student Conference

Entitled 'Our Islands, Our Future, Sustainable Development', the conference was the first of its kind, and encouraged students of various academic backgrounds to gain a broader understanding of the themes behind sustainable development and the importance of conservation. Another of the stated aims of the day was to build links between students of the various Overseas Territories who were currently based in the UK.

Proportionately the Falkland Islands were very well represented, with young Islanders arriving to attend the conference from various universities and colleges, including Peter Symonds College, Chichester College, The University of Derby and Oxford Brookes University. Sukey

Cameron MBE, the Falklands Representative, in her capacity as chair of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association, gave opening remarks to welcome the attendees and to start the conference. Deputy Premier of the British Virgin Islands, Dr the Hon Kedrick Pickering also spoke to attendees later in proceedings.

Falkland Islander Gabriella Hoy gave one of the main talks of the day, titled 'The Falklands Example', which examined issues prevalent in the Islands such as Renewable Energy and Sustainable Tourism. Speakers from other Territories also highlighted common ground between the different regions and gave examples of their own experiences in relation to the broader themes.

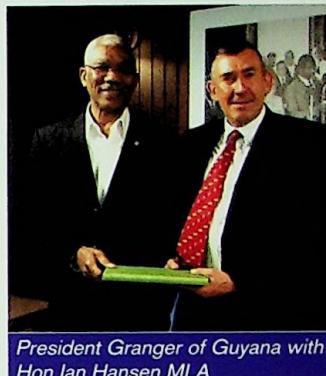
The event was an enormous success, with more than 150 attendees in total, the vast majority of them young students from the various Overseas Territories. Interest in the event was so great in fact, that in the run up to the day of the conference, the number of tickets released to students was twice increased in an effort to meet demand.



Falklands students at the University College London

Image courtesy of Pinguin News

Assembly Member Visits the Caribbean



President Granger of Guyana with Hon Ian Hansen MLA

In January the Hon Ian Hansen, Member of the Legislative Assembly, met with the President of Guyana His Excellency David Granger, at the Ministry of the Presidency in Georgetown. He was accompanied at the meeting by British High Commissioner Colin Quinn and the Falkland Islands Government's Public Relations Officer, Ms Krysteen Ormond. The purpose of the visit was to build on previous discussions between Assembly Members from the Falkland Islands and President Granger in recent years, during which time he held the position of Opposition Leader in the country.

As President Granger had stressed in the previous meetings, he strongly emphasized his support for the right of self-determination for Falkland Islanders. MLA Hansen said that it has been a very productive meeting, "The President was very clear that we should determine our own future". They also discussed matters currently of concern in the region, such as a recent offshore oil discovery near Guyana and an ongoing border dispute with Venezuela.

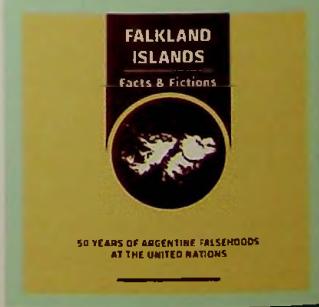
The meeting was one of a number attended by MLA Hansen and Ms Ormond on their tour across several countries in the Caribbean over a three week period. The trip also incorporated visits to Belize, St Kitts, and Trinidad & Tobago, where they attended a renewable energy conference, which gave them the opportunity to highlight the work that has been done in the Islands in this sector. The energy conference was attended by approximately 2,500 visitors, with delegates involved from around the world, including as far afield as Australia, Ghana and Suriname.

UN Resolution 2065

Fifty years on from the passing of UN Resolution 2065, which recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute over the Falklands, the anniversary was marked in contrasting fashion in the Falkland Islands and Argentina. Argentina celebrated the occasion, while in the Falklands Members of the Legislative Assembly took the opportunity to highlight at least twelve mistruths in the Argentine statement, put forward by then Ambassador Jose Maria Ruda, which garnered the resolution all those years ago.

The twelve provable mistruths still form the basis of much of the Argentine claim to the Falklands to this day. In 2015 the Falkland Islands Government produced a booklet entitled 'Falkland Islands Facts and Fictions - 50 Years of Argentine Falsehoods at The United Nations', detailing a number of these factual inaccuracies. This booklet is available, free of charge, in English or Spanish, to anyone who would like to receive a copy. For more information please contact pmanager@sec.gov.fk.

Member of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon Mike Summers, speaking forcefully on the topic said that Resolution 2065 had been thoroughly discredited by history: "It was consigned to the bin in 1982 when Argentina invaded, and made completely irrelevant by the Referendum of 2013". Looking towards the future, and in reference to the new Argentine government, MLA Summers said "I would just like to reiterate that from our perspective the way is open for the new Government of Argentina to find a better and more cooperative way of living together in the South West Atlantic, but that doesn't mean, nor will it ever mean, that we are prepared to discuss sovereignty of the Falkland Islands".



Oil Update

Oil exploration in the Falklands moved forward apace in 2015, with both Premier Oil and Noble Energy drilling wells in their respective licence blocks to the North and South-east of the Islands. Premier Oil recorded oil discoveries in their Zebedee and Isobel Deep wells, and were able to further confirm the Isobel Deep discovery with their Isobel (Elaine) well. Meanwhile, Noble Energy's Humpback well provided much-needed geological information for the vast and under-explored licence areas to the South and East of the Islands. The campaign ended in early 2016 after Premier and Noble cancelled the drilling contract following operational difficulties, but nonetheless this does not affect long-term exploration and development plans.

Indeed, parallel to the exploration drilling Premier Oil has entered the Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) stage of the Sea Lion discovery and eventual development. The process is expected to last 18 months, and will enable the operator to make a final investment decision to push ahead with the development and future production of oil at the Sea Lion field.

The past calendar year also saw a wealth of boardroom activity among licensees, the first of which involved Noble Energy and Edison International respectively acquiring a 75% and 25% working interest

Crew Welfare Conditions Regulations



John Barton MBE

Standards, relating to a number of categories, expected of fishing vessels hoping to operate in Falklands waters in 2016 will be of a higher level than those required of them in previous years.

Director of Natural Resources, John Barton MBE, announced

that measures introduced as a result of the Falkland Islands Government working in conjunction with relevant authorities and advisory bodies, such as the Port Welfare Committee, would in some cases actually exceed the standard flag state demands. An example that he gave was that all vessels would now be required to carry enough survival suits for their entire crew, which is not something that has been required of them in the past. Licence conditions for boats hoping to operate in Falklands waters will be expanded to require various standards and conditions not previously asked

of vessels, although Mr Barton stated that most vessels historically "operate to acceptable standards with crew who return year on year. The measures being implemented for 2016 are intended to catch those who fall short".

Vessels have always had to undertake safety inspections but historically have been granted time to rectify any issues which have been identified, whereas with the introduction of the new regulations a tougher line will be taken to ensure that all vessels fully meet the standards required before they are granted a licence.



Drilling rig Leiv Eiriksson with support vessel

Photo by Stephen Lurton

Prime Minister, Rt Hon David Cameron MP, took the opportunity during his Christmas address to Falkland Islanders, to unequivocally reaffirm his position that their right to determine their own future was a subject on which his Party were immovable. He mentioned that he had spoken to the new Argentine President, Mauricio Macri, following his election, and emphasized that he was eager to improve relations with Argentina in areas of mutual benefit, but this "more mature relationship" would have no impact on his party's policy in relation to the sovereignty of the Islands.

of the acreage previously operated by Argos Resources, who will in turn retain a 5% royalty interest on the licence. Additionally, Rockhopper Exploration and Falkland Oil and Gas announced an all-share merger that will see the two companies fully combine.

The Falkland Islands Government continues to

prepare for an oil development scenario, and is currently in the early stages of a policy development project that will result in a suite of safety and environmental protection legislation to further boost the current regulatory regime and adopt relevant aspects of the European Safety Directive for offshore oil and gas.

Le Boréal Evacuation

In late 2015 the population of the Falklands displayed extraordinary levels of hospitality and generosity when taking in more than 300 persons evacuated from the cruise ship Le Boréal.

The ship, which had been carrying 347 crew and passengers, was abandoned in the early hours of 18th November. A fire had been discovered in the engine room as the ship sailed to the north of the Falklands en-route to South Georgia. A distress signal was issued at 0201 hrs local time and immediately RAF Search and Rescue, Bristows and British International helicopters were

sent to the scene, as was HMS Clyde. The Falkland Islands Defence Force also immediately deployed to Cape Dolphin to assist with movement of crew and passengers once ashore.

After many hours of a complicated rescue effort, undertaken in difficult conditions, all the crew and passengers who had been evacuated were moved ashore from life rafts to Cape Dolphin. They were then transferred onwards to Mount Pleasant and then, finally, to Stanley by coach. An appeal had been issued to the local community for anyone able to accommodate crew or passengers in their own home and, to the enormous credit of all

involved, every single person needing a bed was found one within the local community.

Jean Emmanuel Suavee, CEO of Ponant, the owners of the ship, wrote a letter of thanks to "our friends in the Falklands". In the letter he stated that "The spontaneous acts of amazing solidarity shown by Falkland Islanders are a testimony to the entire people. With their warm welcome, the residents of Port Stanley (sic) made all the difference, lightening up what was a trying situation for our passengers and crew. They hosted, fed and even gave them extra clothing if they needed it, which they will never forget".

During his message, he praised the work of Islanders throughout the previous year, including a number of students who attended an Overseas Territories Conference in London, the actions of the local population during the Le Boréal cruise ship emergency, as well as noting the continued work in the Islands in the areas of demining and environmental protection, among other topics. Looking ahead, he said that he was sure that "2016 will doubtless be another year of opportunity for the Falkland Islands."

Party Conferences

The Islands were well represented during the most recent party conference season, with two Legislative Assembly Members attending both the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester and the Labour Party Conference in Brighton. The Hon Roger Edwards MLA and the Hon Jan Cheek MLA travelled from the Islands specifically for the conferences, as did Public Relations and Media Manager, Ms Krysteen Ormond. They were joined by colleagues from the Falkland Islands Government Office in London, including the Falklands Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE and Deputy Representative James Marsh.

The Falklands' party conference stand, which had been designed and produced in cooperation with Leading Edge Design, was awarded a prize in the 'Best Commercial Stand' category at the Labour Party Conference, the first time that it had been honoured in this manner. The stand was, as ever, very busy with visitors, and a number of existing relationships with Ministers and MPs were reinforced, as well as new contacts made. This year marked the 28th in succession that the

FI Delegation To Agricultural Expo

The Falkland Islands were, for the first time, officially represented at the most recent Prado Expo, Uruguay's leading Agriculture and Business exhibition, which was held in Montevideo in Uruguay.

The Falklands stand formed part of the UK Pavilion at the exhibition, which went on to win an award in the category of 'Chambers of Commerce and Embassies'. The impending presence of the Falklands stand had caused official complaints to be made in advance of the Expo from various Argentine sources, including their Embassy in Uruguay. In fact, reports had circulated in the press that the organisers may, as a result of the protests raised, not permit the Islands' attendees to take part in the event. Manager of the Expo, Alejandro Carvalho, was quick to dismiss reports that the Falklands delegation would not be permitted to open their stand as planned "Contrary to some reports, the

stand will continue to open and operate, promoting trade and tourism with the South Atlantic archipelago".

Far from causing the stand to close, or preventing the Falklands delegation from taking part, the general publicity and word of mouth attention caused by Argentina's protests actually resulted, in the eyes of the Falklands delegation, in bringing much more attention and focus to

their presence than they might have otherwise been able to garner.

The Hon Gavin Short MLA said of the event "People were wonderful, they were very supportive. They wanted to know about our economy, our agriculture, our way of life, how to get to the Falklands, and some of the members of the delegation also established promising business contacts".



Jessica Campos working the Falklands stand in Uruguay

Islands had been represented at the conferences, making them one of the most consistent attendees over that time.



L-R Hon Jan Cheek MLA, Sukey Cameron MBE, Foreign Secretary Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Hon Roger Edwards MLA at the Conservative Party Conference

New Year's Honours



Judy Summers and Rachel Williamson

by a sense of feeling pleased and honoured, upon receiving news of her award. She was quick to give credit to the work of her JP colleagues and the Courts Administrators she has dealt with over the years, and stressed that her success was "very much about teamwork".

It was announced in the New Year's Honours List that Islanders Judy Summers and Rachel Williamson are to receive the MBE and BEM respectively. Mrs Summers has been honoured for services to justice in the Falkland Islands, and District Nursing Sister Ms Williamson for services to the community.

Mrs Summers has been a Justice of the Peace in the Islands for 25 years, and spoke of her initial "shock", followed

Ms Williamson has been a district nursing sister in the Falklands since 1993 and, like Mrs Summers, took the opportunity to praise the work of her colleagues, particularly those "behind the scenes". Speaking of her time in her role, she said "I have met so many fantastic people over the years who are the essence of the Falklands. The people are stoical, they get on with life and not much gets them down. I feel lucky to be the person to spend so much time with them".

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



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



Falklands Focus

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 99

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Fisheries Fines Send Clear Message



Fishery Protection Vessel Protegat

Fines totalling £573,000, in two separate cases, have sent a clear message to the international fishing community that the Falkland Islands will not tolerate poor practices and licence breaches within the fishery.

The cases, involving four separate vessels, belonging to two Spanish companies and two local companies, all related to the misreporting of catches within the Falkland Islands fishing zone.

Licences had been granted to the parties involved for a specific fin-fish species (rock-cod) and the required reports of catches submitted to the Department of Fisheries detailed catches complying with licence conditions. However, inspections revealed discrepancies between actual catches and those that had been reported.

The catches were seized and forfeited to the Falkland Islands Government, and charges brought forward for (a) using fishing vessels in breach of the terms of fishing licences contrary to Section 167 of the Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2005 and (b) providing false information in fishing reports contrary to

Regulation 61 of the Fishing Regulations Order 1987.

In total, 585 tonnes of fish were confiscated from the vessels and sold on behalf of FIG with the proceeds being entered into public funds.

The Attorney General, Peter Judge MBE, commented "These successful prosecutions and the significant penalties imposed in

these cases demonstrate that the Government of the Falkland Islands takes the protection of the maritime resources of this country very seriously. The Fisheries Officers deserve congratulations for their hard work and professionalism."

The Falkland Islands' fishery has previously been described by conservationists as having 'a model system for fishing'.

Caribbean Conference



MLA Edwards with Leaders at the pre JMC meeting

This year's pre Joint Ministerial Conference (JMC) was hosted by the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands from 19th to 22nd July. The meeting was attended by the Leaders of Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman, Gibraltar, Montserrat and the hosts, Turks and Caicos. Anguilla was represented by a Minister and the Hon. Roger Edwards MLA represented the Falkland Islands, accompanied by the UK Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE.

The main topic for discussion was the recent EU Referendum and the impact the result may have on the Overseas Territories. Other items on the agenda were sustainable economic development, health, financial services, and the UK – Overseas Territories relationship.

MLA Roger Edwards introduced two topics on the agenda; firstly child safeguarding, where agreement was obtained for the formal signing of a

Memorandum of Understanding and Roadmap, promoted by the Falkland Islands Government, to take place at the JMC meeting in London. Secondly, he led on the issue of UK pension holders resident in the Overseas Territories. This latter issue is causing concern in those Territories where the pensions are not 'uprated' by the UK Government. This affects some 630 pensioners - 40 of whom live in the Falkland Islands. The Territories have been pushing this issue for some time and wish to have a resolution to the problem before the JMC, which takes place in early November.

The Secretary General of CARICOM (Caribbean Community), Irwin J. LaRocque, also attended the meeting, to speak to the Leaders of the Caribbean OTs, and took time to meet with MLA Edwards who was able to brief him on the current issues affecting the Islands and to seek support from their members on the right to self determination.



MLA Poole at Sand Bay Wind Farm

Climate Change Quarter

Member of the Legislative Assembly Hon Michael Poole, who is Portfolio-holder for the Environment, used his most recent term as Chair of the Legislature (a rotating position held by each Member for two three month terms during their time in office) to raise awareness of climate change and its potential effects in the Islands.

The Climate Change Quarter, as it became known, combined public talks, social events and education programmes to help highlight the relationship between the community, the environment and climate change, drawing on expertise from both Falklands Conservation and the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute, following research projects into these areas. School children helped promote 'Walk or Cycle to Work Week' with posters and drawings and the Climate Change Quarter culminated in the introduction, on International Bag Free Day, of a 5p charge for plastic bags in supermarkets and stores. All

Annual Reception

The Falkland Islands Government's annual reception took place at the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in June.

Member of the Legislative Assembly, Hon Jan Cheek, delivered an address on the developments of the last year within the Islands, and focused in particular on the sense of optimism with regards the future. She also referred to the hope in the Islands that a recent change to the Government of Argentina might eventually lead to better relations between the two countries. She added that "We have yet to see real evidence of change. Time will tell". She also touched upon new developments within the business community, such as a local fish smoking plant opened by Fortuna Limited, as well as environmental and safety legislation that is being reviewed to protect the special environment of the Falklands and those who work in it.

The reception ended with the Loyal Toast and a performance of Beating Retreat by The Band of the Grenadier Guards, with the salute being taken by Major General Julian Thompson OBE.



(L-R) Sukey Cameron MBE,
Penny Mordant MP (the then
Minister for the Armed Forces),
Councillor Ian Lyon

Ministry of Defence Engagement Day



The Islands were represented at an Industry Engagement Day held in Bristol in July, by a delegation of stakeholders from the private business community and FIG. The aim of the day was to explore ways in which local business in the Islands could offer opportunities and solutions to existing problems for the Ministry of Defence (MoD), as well as its associated support network, and vice versa.

The day began with Head of Change Management MoD UK, Mark Snell, stressing the commitment of the MoD to supporting the development of a strong, diverse and successful Falkland Islands economy, and enabling Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and non-traditional suppliers to bid for contracts more easily.

Following his introduction,

presentations were then given by three Islanders in attendance. Stacy Bragger of the Falkland Islands Chamber of Commerce, Michael Betts of the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) and James Marsh of the Falkland Islands Government all spoke extensively about Islands, and in particular the capabilities and potential of local industry. FIDC Managing Director, Martin Slater, also added his expertise in briefing MoD stakeholders, exploring the possibility of Falklands based organisations developing their relationships with the MoD, in a mutually beneficial manner.

A Falklands stand, featuring promotional material from many companies within the Islands, was also in operation throughout the event, and received numerous visitors. Whilst one step in a lengthy process, the day was deemed to be a success by attendees, and discussions are ongoing in terms of putting into practice measures which were discussed during the event.

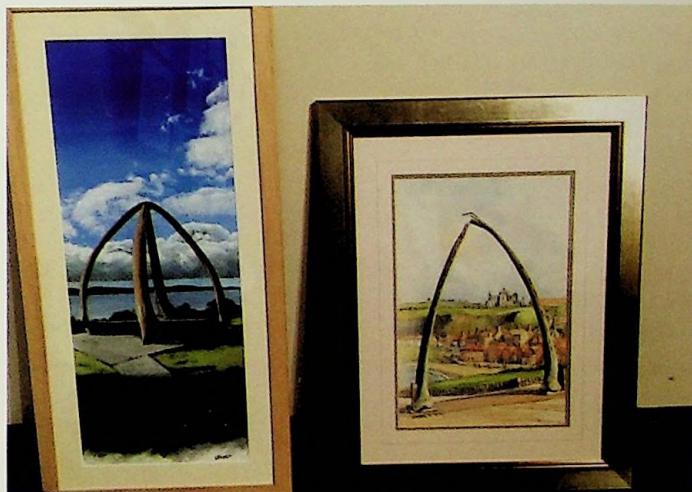
Whitby Twinning Anniversary

August saw the 35th anniversary of the twinning of Stanley and Whitby, in North Yorkshire. The occasion was marked by a ceremony in Whitby, hosted by Mayor Noreen Wilson and the local Town Council, as well as their Twinning Committee. Also in attendance were James Marsh of the Falkland Islands Government Office in London, and Falklands artist, Vicky Chater.

The ceremony centred upon an exchange of paintings between Vicky Chater and respected Whitby artist, and former Mayor, John Freeman. One of the varied links between the two towns is that both have famous

Whalebone Arches. Vicky produced a painting of Stanley's Whalebone Arch, and John undertook the same task with Whitby's own Arch. Mayor Wilson presented commemorative documents to the Falklands delegates to mark the occasion

Of their visit, James said "The welcome that Vicky and I have received throughout our time in Whitby has been fantastic. The members of the local community that we met with during our brief visit, ranging from representatives of the local government, to business owners, and local volunteer groups and societies, all made us feel incredibly welcome".



Paintings of the respective Whalebone Arches of Stanley and Whitby

UN Regional Seminar

Krysteen Ormond, the Public Relations Manager for FIG, travelled to Nicaragua in May to represent the Falkland Islands at the Regional Seminar of the United Nations Decolonisation Committee (Committee of 24).

The theme for the seminar was 'The Third International Decade of the Eradication of Colonialism: Commitments and Actions for Decolonisation of the Non-Self-

Governing Territories.' In her presentation to the Committee, Ms Ormond drew on the parallel between the third international decade of decolonisation and the third decade of her life, highlighting issues such as investment in young people, social development and economic self-sufficiency as markers of decolonisation and internal self-governance.

This marks the second time that the Falkland Islands Government have sent a delegate to the seminar who is not an elected Assembly Member; it is also the first time a delegate born after the 1982 Falklands War has represented the Islands.

A full copy of the intervention may be found at:
<http://www.falklands.gov.fk/presentation-to-pacific-regional-seminar-of-the-c-24-in-managua-nicaragua/>



Krysteen Ormond

Brussels Seafood Expo



The Falklands stand in Brussels

Representatives of the Falklands Islands Fishing Industry travelled to Europe in late April to attend the 'Brussels Seafood Expo'. The three day event, held across a venue of 35,862 square metres, attracted 1,700 exhibiting companies from more than 80 countries and over 22,000 visitors.

Fishing provides one of the main sources of income to the economy and an enormous amount of pride is taken in how well regulated the industry is. Science and conservation play key roles in determining policy and influencing decisions in this industry, with up to six million

pounds spent every year on fisheries protection and research

The Falklands stand was manned throughout the duration of the event by individuals from private fishing companies, as well as Gillian Cotter, secretary of the Falkland Islands Fishing Companies Association. The stand attracted a large number of visitors, a number of whom had expressly sought out the Falklands companies with specific proposals in mind. Numerous existing business relationships were strengthened by the attendance of the Falklands delegation, whilst a number of new ones were formed over the course of the event.

The Gap Project Extended

Approval was given in August to extend, for a further year, the work undertaken by the South Atlantic Environmental Agency (SAERI), on Gap Analysis. The intention of the project has been to identify and fill knowledge gaps in environmental sciences, with a view to developing a hydrocarbons industry that complements rather than damages the environment of the Islands. The project is co-funded by the Falkland Islands Petroleum Licensees Association, and to date has successfully assessed the offshore environmental data gaps, collated data from several sources, and undertaken research activities to fill gaps identified. The project will continue the collation of data into an assessable and usable source for future industry studies.

The project has been headed by Dr Megan Tierney - focusing on marine higher predators - and Dr David Blockley -

focusing on benthic ecology - from SAERI. Collaborative research within universities across Europe and the Americas has also provided input to the scheme. The project has contributed to a greater understanding of the spatial and temporal distribution of (and utilisation of the environment by) marine higher predators such as penguins and seals.

A July workshop, held in Stanley, brought together stakeholders, including local NGOs, the Falkland Islands Government, oil companies operating in the Falklands and academics from Australia, Portugal, Italy and Canada and elsewhere.

The United Kingdom ratification on the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) was formally extended to the Falkland Islands in June. The CBD is an agreement on environmental management and best practice and originated from the 1992 Rio Conference on environment and development.



A tracking beacon being attached to a penguin

Students' Overseas Success

Year, and was presented with this honour at her graduation event. Joleen has now returned to the Falklands, after two years in Australia, to re-join the shearing circuit and put her skills into practice.

Ian France, from the Falkland Islands Airport Fire & Rescue Service, travelled to Durham in July to receive his award for Top Overseas Student at the International Fire Training Centre (IFTC) at Durham Tees Valley Airport. All students from overseas, who have studied one of three courses at IFTC in the 2015/16 year and achieved 100% in their exams, are eligible for the award. Course tutors then consider all the candidates and

make their assessment based not just on their academic attainment, but their demeanour and approach to their studies. Following his award, Ian returned to the Islands where he is a Crew Manager and Breathing Apparatus Instructor at Stanley Airport.

Tiegan Curtis has recently returned to the Falklands after two years studying at United World College of South-East Asia (UWCSEA), in Singapore. Tiegan is the first Falklands student to have studied at UWCSEA and won a scholarship to complete her International Baccalaureate as part of the College's programme of wider participation and scholarships. Alongside a gruelling study



Falklands Student Joleen Morrison

Joleen Morrison has successfully completed a course in wool classing at the Technical & Further Education College (TAFE) in Narrogin, Australia. As well as being awarded Regional Primary Industries Student of the Year at the CY O'Connor Institute, Joleen was also recognized as Overall Student of the

programme, Tiegan participated in additional activities such as teaching underprivileged children how to swim, travelling to Cambodia to volunteer in a school in Kampot and working for the student radio service. Following her studies Tiegan will begin training at a UK university to become a primary school teacher.

Falklands based GCSE students received exam results in late August which reflected significant improvements in terms of grades achieved, across a variety of topics, compared to recent years. Half of the students who undertook exams achieved the required results to attend college in the coming year.

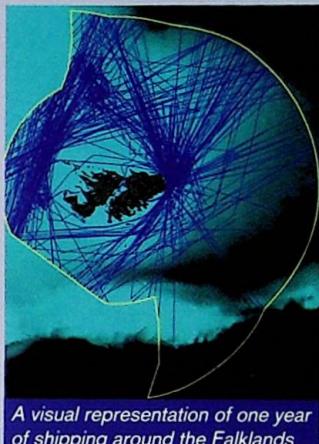
Falkland Islands and Montserrat Partnership

A partnership has been entered into between the Falklands based South Atlantic Environmental Institute (SAERI) and the Government of Montserrat. The intention of the partnership is to encourage the transfer of relevant knowledge and skills from the South Atlantic to the Caribbean. Among the areas of particular focus will be Information Management and Marine Spatial Planning, both topics on which the Falklands have already benefited from SAERI's research. The project has been supported by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

The JNCC has an Overseas Territories programme which

aims to facilitate a number of similar partnerships across the UK's Overseas Territories. Scientific research and conservation are key factors in

shaping Falkland Islands Government policy. MLA Poole said, "Sharing expertise and experience between Territories has always been something that the Falkland Islands Government has proactively worked on. We set up the South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute to have a territory-based, territory-led research institution that can develop expertise within the region and beyond. We are very pleased that our strong partnerships with other OTs and with the JNCC have led to the exciting initiative 'T2T', sharing skills knowledge and expertise with our colleagues in Montserrat. We are honoured to have been invited to actively contribute to this partnership".



A visual representation of one year of shipping around the Falklands

The small community with a big heart

With a population of less than 3,000 people, the Falkland Islands have a strong record of extremely generous charitable giving. In 2015, FIG donated £5,000 to the Central School in Vanuatu to rebuild the school's library after Cyclone Pam. Weeks later, the Government committed pound-for-pound fund-matching for all monies raised by the community to donate to the Nepal Appeal, after the country was rocked by earthquakes. In February 2016, FIG handed over £32,000 towards the Appeal, meaning almost £70,000 was raised in the Falkland Islands.

Youth Hockey Team Win 'Winter Cup' in Chile



Falklands youth hockey players celebrate

Following on from the Stanley Penguins' success in the 'Copa Invernada' in 2015, Falkland Islands youth teams have won Gold and Bronze in the same championship just a week after skating on ice for the first time.

The four teams - Knights, Bombers, Dragons and Wolverines - travelled to Punta

Arenas, in the south of Chile, to compete in the week-long tournament, despite the fact that there is no ice rink in the Islands to have practised on. Having played ice-hockey himself in the UK in the 1990s, local businessman Grant Budd successfully introduced DEK hockey for adult players in the

Islands but wanted to be able to develop something different for the youth players. The youth league was established in the Falklands in late 2015 and the teams practiced on in-line roller skates for nine months, before making the journey to Chile to compete in their first regional championship.



Toyah Wilson of the Infant and Junior School.

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For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

www.falklands.gov.fk



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



Falklands Focus

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 100

June 2017

The 35th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict: 35 years of progress



Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP,
Foreign Office Minister with Sukey
Cameron MBE

The Anniversary has been marked in a range of ways, both commemorating those who gave so much and celebrating what has been achieved in a reinvigorated Falkland Islands since 1982.

The Falkland Islands Government Annual Reception was held at Middle Temple Hall, London, with guest of honour, Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Duncan MP just re-appointed as Foreign Office Minister with responsibility for the Falklands.

Sir Alan said he reflected on the Conflict with "gratitude and respect and enduring commitment", adding: "We remember those who died - on both sides of the Conflict. And we look forward to reconciliation wherever we can find it; but always while defending and respecting the Sovereignty of the Islands - so long as that is your choice. So do not think that our commitment has in any way been diluted - quite the opposite".

Hon. Jan Cheek MLA spoke for the Falkland Islands Government and Islanders: "There will be a solemn and heartfelt commemoration of the events of 1982, remembering those who gave their lives or health for our Liberation. There will also be a celebration of the freedom and democracy we have enjoyed for the last 35 years". She explained how Liberation

had created many economic and growth opportunities in fishing, farming, tourism and potentially oil. However, she said that it is frustrating that cooperation on fisheries data, trade, travel and communications with Argentina is frustratingly slow, despite the Joint Communique with the UK of September 2016. Another area of concern relates to the uncertainties surrounding Brexit and possible implications on Falkland Islands agricultural and fish exports.

Mrs Cheek paid tribute to the vital work in the UK, by Falkland Islands supporters and the Falkland Islands Government Office.

In the Falkland Islands there have been a series of well attended ceremonial events and services marking key anniversary dates, culminating on Liberation Day itself, with a ceremony attended by all three armed services and the Falkland Islands Defence Force, along with large numbers of Islanders. Guests of honour were 1982 veterans including Brigadier Alastair Bruce OBE, who was in the Scots Guards and former Royal Marine, David Robb, the youngest Marine to serve in the Conflict, aged 17.

A new booklet entitled '35 Years of Progress', maps out developments in terms of the economy,



Beating Retreat performed by the Band of the Parachute Regiment, with Lt. Gen. Sir Hew Pike, Commander of 3 Para in 1982, taking the salute

35 years of growth – the 2016 census data

The first census was carried out in 1842 by Lieutenant Governor Richard Clement Moody, and they have continued at regular intervals to the current day.

Compared to the previous census in 2012, it showed that the Islands' population has increased by 16% to 3,200 people. Approximately three quarters of the population live in Stanley. However, a notable finding is that the number of people living in Camp has increased for the first time in several decades, due in part to efforts under the Rural Development Strategy in addition to natural population increases.

The Islands have a culturally diverse society, with 42 nationalities recorded and a total of 31 languages, other than English, spoken. The largest communities in the Islands, other than Falkland Islands and UK, hail from St. Helena and Chile, followed by Zimbabwe, which reflects those conducting the demining activities in the Islands. Overall, almost half of all people consider themselves primarily Falkland Islanders, with a further 30% identifying as British or a combination of Islander, British and other national heritages.

In terms of the economy, the Islands have an exceptionally high



The Falkland Islands flag flies over the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 14th June

infrastructure, democracy and society. Copies are available from Falkland House. The publication coincided with a photographic exhibition illustrating aspects of the modern Falkland Islands. This unique collection of photographs, which showcased the incredible landscape, wildlife and people of the Falkland Islands, was exhibited at the A & D Gallery in London in late June.

A commemorative coin has been cast for the Anniversary, with coins given out to all children in the Islands, and is available for sale internationally at www.pobjoy.com.



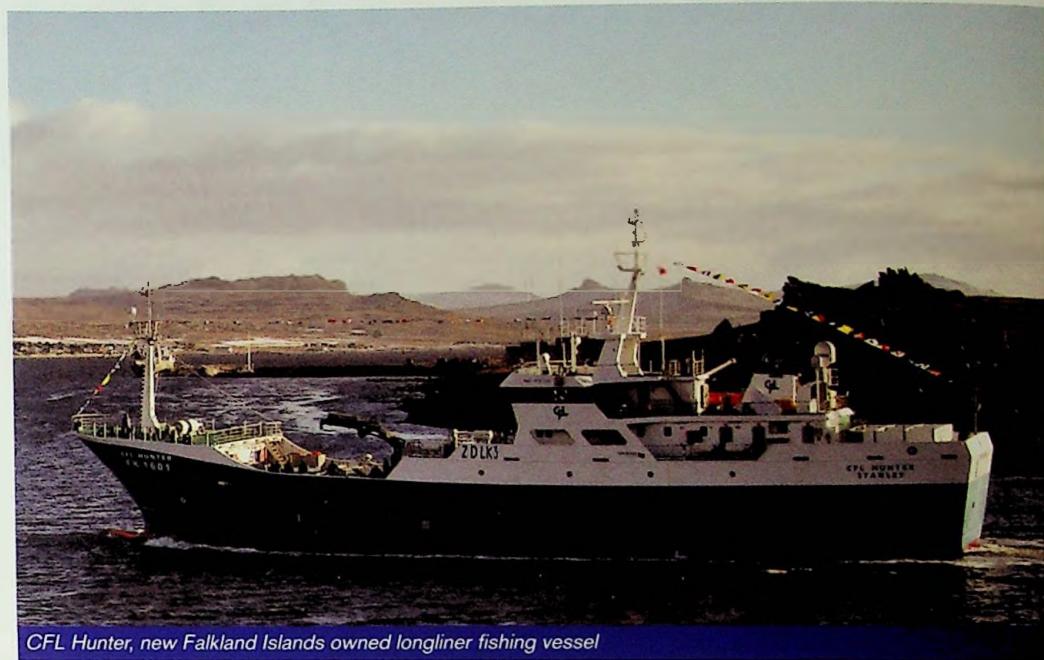
Brigadier Alastair Bruce OBE with local Cubs and Scouts

labour participation rate by international standards, for both men and women across the Islands. As in previous years, unemployment is extremely low, at 1% of the labour market, and almost a fifth of people in employment hold two or more jobs. This illustrates the necessity for drawing on labour from overseas. Compared to 2012, people are financially better off across the board; the reported mean and median incomes for those in employment have increased by 15% and 29% respectively, and there are now proportionately fewer people earning at the lower end of the pay scale.

30th Anniversary of the Fishery

Islanders celebrated the 30th anniversary of the fishery with a 'Fish Day' in Stanley at the end of February. The day gave Islanders the opportunity of a general overview both of the fishery and the Fisheries Department.

The creation of the 150 mile Falklands Interim Conservation Zone was the first step in making the fishery sustainable, as opposed to the uncontrolled and unreported fishing by large trawlers of many nationalities until licensed fishing began in 1987. In 1990 the Zone was extended to 200 miles creating the Falklands Outer Conservation Zone. Licence fees transformed the Falkland Islands' economy and paid for the policing of the zone by patrol ships and aircraft, as well as the extensive scientific work required to inform the management of the stocks. The industry, in partnership with Government, has also improved the conditions for the fishing vessel crews.



CFL Hunter, new Falkland Islands owned longliner fishing vessel

The Individual Transferable Quota system gives a secure environment for the industry to invest in long-term, and also promotes greater stakeholder involvement in research, as the

fishing industry can directly benefit from it.

With three new ships being built in Spain, destined to fish Falkland Islands waters, there is a great deal of goodwill in Galicia

towards the Falklands. However, the main challenge currently, and concern facing the industry, is the post-Brexit trade arrangements, as the major market for Falkland Islands fish produce is Europe.

Brexit and the potential impact on the Falkland Islands



Hon. Michael Poole MLA, with OT leaders, Robin Walker MP from DExEU and Rt Hon Baroness Anelay from the FCO, meeting the Prime Minister in February following Brexit talks

As an Overseas Territory, the Falkland Islands' relationship with the European Union is inextricably linked to and dependent upon that of the UK. Whilst citizens of the Falkland Islands were not able to vote in the referendum, input and views from Overseas Territories have been encouraged

by Her Majesty's Government, to discuss what impacts this change may have.

The Islands' main concern relates to any material change that results in less beneficial import and export access to the market. This could be potentially damaging for the Falkland Islands economy; it is estimated that over 70% of

our total GDP is dependent upon access to the European market, for which we currently enjoy quota and tariff-free access through our status within the Overseas Association Decision.

Total sales of Falkland Islands produced fish, meat and other agricultural products into the European Union are valued at around £180m per annum and the EU is the largest single market for our products globally.

Whilst receipt of EU Development Funds in the Falkland Islands is limited, a number of environmental NGOs that operate in the region are heavily dependent on EU funding. These NGOs work with Islanders to help protect and preserve our abundant biodiversity.

The UK exiting the EU could therefore have wide-ranging and deep implications for the Falkland Islands, our people and businesses (both local and UK-registered) that operate in the Islands.

Legislative Assembly passes Marriage Bill

In March 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed an amendment to the Marriage Bill, allowing same sex marriage and civil partnerships for both same sex couples and heterosexual couples.

The Constitution of the Falkland Islands already included anti-discrimination and pro-equality rights, but the law was updated to reflect the results of a public consultation which found that 90% of respondents were in favour of same sex marriage and 94% were in favour of civil partnerships for all couples.

The Islands are proud to join the list of 22 other countries that recognise same sex marriage (either nationwide or in some parts). The Falklands also join an even shorter list of three countries, following the Netherlands and New Zealand, which recognise civil partnerships between all couples.

MPs visit

Four Members of Parliament visited the Islands in February, in a trip organized by the Falkland Islands Government and Sukey Cameron MBE, the U.K. Representative. The group was made up of Conservatives Alan Mak MP and Amanda Milling MP, with Labour's Karin Smyth MP and Wes Streeting MP. The group had a very busy schedule, designed to give them an insight into Falklands business and culture.

Two of the visiting MPs subsequently wrote an article for *The Times* which was published on 15th June:



A new generation backs the Falklands' right to self-determination

Liberation Day was marked in the Falkland Islands yesterday, marking 35 years since the short but brutal fight to reclaim the Islands from Argentine invaders ended in June 1982.

The Islanders and the British Forces stationed there to protect them didn't seek or provoke the occupation and the resultant loss of life. But they fought back bravely, with 255 British military personnel and three Falkland Islanders dying during the hostilities.

Today, we must measure such sacrifice by the strength that has come from it. In February this year, we both visited the Islands and laid wreaths at the Islands Liberation Monument. In this remote Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic we discovered a fiercely British community which greatly values its constitutional links with the UK. This was clearly demonstrated in 2013 when 99.8% of its population voted to retain their British links. The Islands have a strong and growing economy, a resilient and expanding population, and thanks to the continued presence of British forces, a safe and secure future.

The Falklands are internally self-governing with an eight member Legislative Assembly, and are fully financially self-sufficient apart from defence. Whilst on the Islands we spoke to serving British forces garrisoned there to act as a deterrent to future aggression, all proud of the role they're playing in securing the Islanders' continued freedom.

Both of us were born after the Conflict but grew up understanding the impact it had on the UK at the time. We were also able to see for ourselves the lasting positive impact that has come from that just fight. Young Islanders now have the opportunity to go to college and university, with the vast majority coming here to the UK to study. These opportunities were not available to previous generations in the Islands. The Islands have little to no unemployment, meaning that four in five students return to the Islands to work within five years of graduating. During their last elections the first Assembly member to be born after 1982 was elected – Michael Poole. He had been given a wealth of opportunity by the Islands' continuing success story, and is now leading their work to ensure the Falklands' voice in Britain's Brexit negotiations are strong. The Islands' economy, traditionally based on agriculture and fishing, is now diversifying into energy exploration and tourism.

This positive story should make all of us in Britain and the wider UK family proud. The British Government's support for the Islanders' right to self-determination, including providing funding for British forces on the Islands, reflects our collective will. It cuts across party-political boundaries and forms a key part of British foreign policy no matter who is in government.

As Liberation Day was marked in the Islands and in a number of services across the UK, we should remember and give thanks to those that lost their lives or were impacted in 1982. By commemorating all those who suffered 35 years ago, we send a message from Britain – and Westminster in particular – that a new, younger generation of politicians is determined to ensure that the sacrifices made during the Falklands War are not forgotten.

Falkland Islanders can look forward to a bright, secure future safe in the knowledge that we in Britain will continue our support for their right to self-determination in the years ahead.

Alan Mak MP (Con, Havant)

Wes Streeting MP (Lab, Ilford North).

Recent visitors to the Islands



A BBC1 Panorama team followed a group of Welsh Guards veterans revisiting and walking across the Islands culminating in a service of remembrance at the Welsh Guards memorial at Fitzroy on St. David's Day, 1st March. The Panorama episode was aired on 5th June.



BBC Radio 4 Producer Matthew Teller and Presenter Peter Gibbs recorded Falkland Islands themed editions of 'Costing the Earth' and 'On your Farm' in March, which were broadcast in May.



Michael Palin CBE FRGS spent some time in Stanley in March researching for a book on HMS Erebus and HMS Terror, undertaking research at the National Archives and in the Historic Dockyard Museum.

Best destination – Wave Awards

In February 2017 the Falkland Islands won the best destination award at the Wave Awards in London; finalists in this category included Abu Dhabi, Akureyri, Dublin, Palma, Santa Cruz and Seattle.

The Falkland Islands' submission stood out to the panel of sixteen cruise travel expert judges, on the range of what the Islands had to offer to cruise ships, and the unusual aspects of wildlife and culture that makes the Islands unique, and the winning destination.



Well known ITV breakfast show presenter Lorraine Kelly visited the Islands in March and fell in love with the wildlife, landscapes and food. She tweeted: "Already missing Falklands grub. Fresh teaberries and the best squid I've ever eaten".

Upgrade and changes at Falkland House, Westminster

The reception and meeting rooms at Falkland House have undergone an extensive refit that improves access to both technological display opportunities and enhances the meeting rooms. The London office has also employed a full time Public

Relations Manager, Matt Ware, to assist in promotional work and the social media presence of the Falkland Islands in the UK. Follow us on Twitter @FalklandsinUK or on Facebook 'Falkland Islands Government'.

New Chief Executive

Barry Rowland was appointed as Chief Executive of the Falkland Islands Government in October 2016. He comes to the Islands from the north of England and brings over 24 years' experience in the public sector, with 15 years of those being in a number of corporate roles with senior leadership

responsibilities. In his most recent role, as Executive Director of Northumberland County Council, Mr Rowland was heavily involved in the turnaround of the organisation, with broad responsibilities including delivery across public protection, planning and development.

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Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk





Falklands Focus

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 101

December 2017

General Election



Members of the Legislative Assembly 2017-2021.

Stacy Bragger, Roger Spink, Ian Hansen, Dr. Barry Elsby, Roger Edwards, Leona Roberts, Mark Pollard, Teslyn Barkman.

The Election for the Legislative Assembly took place on 9th November, following the procedural dissolution of the previous Assembly on 29th September. It is the second full-time Assembly and there have been a number of changes. Two long-standing MLAs, Mike Summers OBE and Jan Cheek, have retired after over twenty years' service, whilst Phyl Rendell MBE has also retired and Michael Poole has been awarded a Chevening Scholarship to study at the LSE in London, after one term in office.

Candidates were encouraged to stand through a number of initiatives, such as open-days and information stands at public

events. This resulted in seventeen candidates standing for the eight seats, with four candidates competing for the three Camp (rural) seats and thirteen candidates for the five seats for the Stanley constituency.

During the campaign, the candidates were interviewed by local radio, television and newspaper. There was a noticeable increase in the use of social media, including a dedicated Falkland Islands General Election Facebook page to publish manifestos, convey ideas and conduct a lively debate.

The Election shows the resolve of Islanders to ensure everyone can get to vote by utilising mobile ballot boxes, transported by light aircraft and off-road four-wheel drive vehicles across the Islands.

The election turnout was higher than in 2013, with 80% of the electorate voting in Stanley and 86% in the Camp. The election has resulted in five new MLAs, half of whom are aged forty-five years, or younger, and two were born after 1982.

For the Stanley Constituency, Dr. Barry Elsby was re-elected and joined by Roger Spink, Leona Roberts, Mark Pollard and Stacy Bragger.

For the Camp Constituency, there were only twenty-one votes between all four candidates. Ian Hansen and Roger Edwards were re-elected and were joined by a new MLA, Teslyn Barkman.

The Members of the Legislative Assembly 2017-2021 are:

Teslyn Barkman, 30, past Public Relations Manager for the Falkland Islands Government and helps manage Bleaker Island farm and tourism business with her partner Nick Rendell. She said "I am humbled by the votes and grateful for the responsibility".

Stacy Bragger, 33, former Executive Secretary of the Falkland Islands Chamber of Commerce, prior to which he was a reporter for Falklands Radio. He said "It is a great privilege to be elected to the Assembly. I will give my all to achieve the best for the Islands and for everyone in the community".

Roger Edwards, 71, is re-elected as an MLA after twelve years previous experience. He is a retired Royal Marine, but had periods attached to the Navy, RAF, and the SAS (during the Falklands Conflict). He commented that it had been possibly the closest election result in Camp ever.

Dr. Barry Elsby, 62, also continues after twelve years in the role. He previously worked at the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital in Stanley, specialising in cancer research. Before his election to the Legislative Assembly he was a member of the Media Trust and on the Board of Education.

Ian Hansen, 59, another returning MLA with twelve years previous experience and lives at Hill Cove on West Falkland. With his extensive farming experience he is a founding member of the Farmers Association and ex Chair of the Rural Business Association. He said "It is always an honour and a privilege to be elected."

Mark Pollard, 38, previously a technician at Sure South Atlantic in Stanley. He was also the Chair of the local Falkland Islands Association and a member of the Sports Association. He said "I am looking forward to getting to grips with my portfolio responsibilities and working with my colleagues to create a better future".

Leona Roberts, 45, worked at the Falkland Islands Radio Station and is the former Manager of the Falkland Islands Museum. Whilst her mother's family have lived in the Falklands since 1842, she was born in Chile but has lived in the Islands since she was three years old. She said "I am looking forward to the next four years with excitement and a healthy dose of trepidation".

Roger Spink, 57, is the ex-Managing Director of the Falkland Islands Company and President of the Islands Chamber of Commerce. He is current Chair of Falklands Conservation. He said after the results were announced that he was "very proud and humbled" to have been elected.



FIGAS plane and ballot box.

New MLA portfolio responsibilities:

Portfolio	Portfolio holder	Deputy
Development and Commercial Services	Dr. Barry Elsby	Roger Spink
Education and Community	Stacy Bragger	Leona Roberts
Energy and Environment	Teslyn Barkman	Ian Hansen
Government Services	Roger Spink	Roger Edwards
Health and Social Services	Ian Hansen	Dr. Barry Elsby
International and Public Relations & Media	All MLAs	
Public Protection	Leona Roberts	Teslyn Barkman
Public Works	Roger Edwards	Mark Pollard
Trade and Industry	Mark Pollard	Stacy Bragger

The three MLAs on the Executive Council are Teslyn Barkman, Leona Roberts and Roger Spink.

Credit: Sharon Jaffray

Thirty years exhibiting at Party Conferences



Sukey Cameron MBE receives a special award from the Labour Party for attending their conference for thirty years.

The Government continues to attend and exhibit at both the Conservative and Labour Party Conferences, to represent Islanders' views and to thank delegates for their continued support. This includes both the Government and Opposition politicians, along with the wider general public attending.

This year marks the thirtieth in succession the Government has exhibited at the conferences, offering a great opportunity to meet with thousands of delegates

over the years and debate wide ranging issues. Many Ministers and Shadow Ministers visited the stand to discuss current issues, along with Parliamentary friends of the Falklands, many of whom have visited the Islands.

The main topics raised this year included Brexit, trade issues and the Islanders right to self-determination.

The Representative in the UK, Sukey Cameron MBE, has attended for all of the past thirty years, whilst MLA Jan Cheek completed her twelfth year on the

stand. Sukey Cameron said "We are always very grateful for the interest and support we get from all parties. It's great to meet old friends and make new ones as well". MLA Cheek said "The Party Conferences are a great opportunity to meet and talk to a large number of people in a short time. It is always a worthwhile experience".

In recognition of the thirty years attendance, the Falkland Islands Government was presented with a special award at the Labour Conference and gifts at the Conservative Conference, by the respective event organisers.



Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP visits the Government stand at the Conservative Conference.

Brexit evidence session to the House of Lords

Concerns about potential tariffs on Falkland Islands exports post-Brexit, and possible political consequences were aired by the Hon. Roger Edwards MLA, as he gave evidence to a House of Lords European Union Select Committee in July.

MLA Edwards outlined three major revenue generation areas of concern regarding the Falkland Islands economy.

With limited domestic demand, wool, lamb, mutton and beef are produced for export. Currently, wool has no tariff or quota attached wherever it is sold and it is thought that even after Brexit, this is likely to continue.

The exported meat products, which are slaughtered to EU Standards, are more problematic as about 60% is sold into the UK and the remainder into Europe. Therefore, post-Brexit, tariffs could apply. However, the quantities of meat are quite small and there is a possibility that all of the Falklands produce could be absorbed into the UK market.

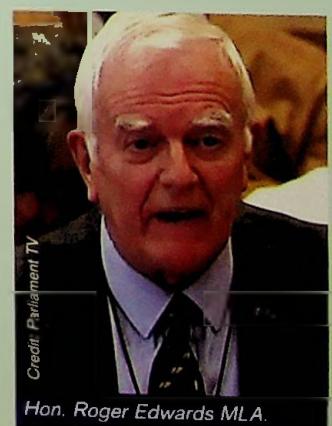
On fisheries, the two main markets for the catches are the Far East (for Illex Squid, and some of finfish), and Europe (which takes Loligo Squid, and the remainder of finfish). Therefore Illex sales and revenue should not be affected by Brexit.

However, Loligo sales into Europe make up about 10% of the import through the Port of Vigo in Spain, and fill a similar percentage of the market in Southern Europe. If quotas and tariffs were to be applied, MLA Edwards predicted that would reduce both the revenues and company profits, leading to a significant loss of fishery development and also investment in new vessels.

As far as outward travel for Islands residents was concerned, MLA Edwards assumed that, as the majority of people would be carrying British passports they would be treated in the same way as UK citizens residing anywhere around the globe.

However, MLA Edwards told the Committee that he did have an additional concern, post-Brexit; that was the political aspect of all

EU member states recognising and accepting that the UK Overseas Territories were a part of the UK. He explained that all the signatories of the Treaty of Rome were obliged to recognise and accept the status of UK Overseas Territories. Once the UK was no longer a Member State, nor a signatory to the Treaty of Rome, he believed the same obligations may not apply and the UK might well lose the support of the rest of Europe and some countries, such as Spain, might give greater support to Argentina over its mistaken and illegal claim to the Falkland Islands.



Hon. Roger Edwards MLA.

Change of Governor

After almost four years, the Falklands have said farewell to His Excellency Colin Roberts CVO and welcomed his successor, His Excellency Nigel Phillips CBE, as 36th Governor.

The new Governor was sworn in on 13th September. He previously worked at the UK Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels, prior to which he held several defence attaché posts at UK embassies. HE Nigel Phillips told Islanders that his role is to work with "the democratically elected representatives of the people," and that it is "entirely proper that you decide how you wish to be governed, now and in the future." He is accompanied by his wife Emma, who has already become immersed in the local community.



His Excellency Nigel Phillips CBE

Major South American trade show

The Chamber of Commerce and Falkland Islands Government oversaw a wide-ranging delegation of representatives from the agriculture, fishing, tourism, hospitality, transport and shipping sectors, who exhibited at the prestigious PRADO trade event in Montevideo, Uruguay, in September. The Islanders were able to promote the opportunities and benefits of trade, visiting and improving links to the Falkland Islands, to the estimated 400,000 visitors over twelve days.

SAERI goes independent

by Dr. Paul Brickle, Director.

www.south-atlantic-research.org

The South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute (SAERI) was established in March 2012, born out of the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) Economic Development Strategy, which seeks to promote the development of new industries in the Islands. The SAERI concept offered an opportunity to increase the level of scientific research undertaken in the Falkland Islands, and the wider South Atlantic region, through the development of the Falkland Islands as an international research platform – with spin-off economic benefits.

SAERI has grown from strength to strength since its formation and, as was hoped, has filled an important role not only in the Falkland Islands but across the South Atlantic and beyond. Whether undertaking important scientific research in the region, or advising industry and governments on environmental issues, SAERI has found an important niche. With annual turnover in excess of £1m, and with significant room for growth in the future, 2012 – 2017 have been exciting years for the Institute, with a firm foundation having been built for the future.

In 2017 the range of SAERI's work has extended beyond the South Atlantic to implementing 'Territory to Territory' partnerships in the Caribbean. SAERI now has eight PhD students and is building its research profile through continuing publications in high profile journals. The Institute



Sea lions

Credit: Dr Judith Brown

continues to provide a base for visiting researchers and has received visitors from across the globe working in collaboration with the Institute based Stanley.

It was always FIG's intention to expand SAERI as an independent institute as it provides greater opportunities for funding internationally. SAERI's separation from FIG officially occurred on 30th June to coincide with the start of FIG's new financial year. The SAERI /

FIG MoU was signed, as was a Transfer Agreement and a Deed of Goodwill, marking an exciting new chapter in the development of SAERI. The Institute is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in the UK and the Falkland Islands. Marking the occasion FIG Chief Executive, Mr Barry Rowland, said "The institution is a great success and enhances the prestige and reputation of the Falkland Islands. The Government will continue to have a special partnership with SAERI".

MLA Michael Poole, who held the responsibility for the environment portfolio at the time, remarked "I am delighted that SAERI has made this significant step in its development and this is down to the hard work and focus of Dr Brickle and his entire team. Separation from FIG brings its own challenges but I am confident the organisation can face them and continue to grow and serve the Falkland Islands and the region in the future."

This is an exciting time for SAERI

and it is now the Institutes' job to ensure the governance and human resource levels are appropriate and well-structured to enable SAERI to grow at a swift but sustainable rate.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the separation.



Credit: Neil Golding / SAERI

Signing SAERI independence



Macrocystis pyrfera kelp

Credit: SAMSRI

Support for Caribbean Islands affected by Hurricane Irma

The Government has made £200,000 available to assist sister UK Overseas Territories and Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean so terribly affected by Hurricane Irma. With a population of just 3,200 in the Falkland Islands, this is equivalent to £63 per person.

These funds are being spread between Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Turks & Caicos Islands; £50,000 has also been

donated to Antigua & Barbuda, which also suffered severe damage.

The idea is that, as re-building efforts get underway, these funds will play a small role in helping to restore medical and educational facilities to these beautiful islands.

It is expected that this donation will be added to over time by the Falkland Islands community as fundraising efforts to support

those affected continue. Falkland Islanders have a proud history charity fundraising.

Deputy Chair of the Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly at the time, MLA Jan Cheek, said "We have watched the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma and wanted to show solidarity to fellow island populations by offering a donation to help with rebuilding projects for some of those worst hit".

Online digitised Statute law database

After two years of intensive work, the laws of the Falkland Islands can now be freely accessed online at www.legislation.gov.fk. This important development achieves the Government's Islands Plan objective to improve availability of the law, and reflects a vital commitment to uphold the rule of law in the Falkland Islands. The online resource will ensure that the fundamental rights and freedoms protected by the Constitution, are supplemented by accessibility of law which compares favourably with the highest international standards.

The website also provides the basis for a range of strategic and economic benefits to the Falkland Islands, a more effective Legislature, easier access to justice, a fairer government and a more efficient economy.

Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay

The Islands proudly hosted the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay on 12th and 13th August. The Baton is travelling a record-breaking 230,000km, to seventy Commonwealth nations and territories, over 388 days in the run up to the Commonwealth

Games hosted by the Gold Coast region of Australia in April 2018.

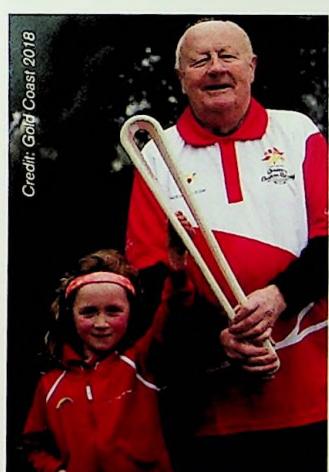
On arrival from the Americas leg of the tour, the Baton was met by school children at Mount Pleasant Airport, before being flown by a British International helicopter to HMS Clyde and then taken by launch to the Public Jetty in Stanley.

During the visit the Baton was carried by past and present representatives of the Islands' sports clubs, including hockey-players, motorcyclists, horse-riders and swimmers. Receptions were held at Government House and the Dockyard Museum, along with a sports open day. The Baton then headed north to the UK for the next leg of the global journey.

The seventy nations from across the Commonwealth will be taking part in eighteen different sports; the Falkland Islands will be sending a twenty-seven strong team, taking part in badminton and shooting.



Credit: Gold Coast 2018



Gerald Cheek, who took part in the 1982 Commonwealth Games, with his granddaughter

The Prime Minister supports self-determination

In response to a letter sent by the Legislative Assembly after her re-election, Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP replied reiterating the UK Government's strong and wholehearted support for the right to self-determination. She also stressed her Government's commitment to consult with and involve the Overseas Territories throughout the Brexit process.

In addition, and in response to points raised in the letter of congratulation, the Prime Minister reaffirmed the UK

Government's commitment to working with the Falkland Islands Government on issues such as public diplomacy, access to banking services and future hydrocarbons development.

Finally the letter noted that the UK Government is seeking a more productive relationship with the Government of Argentina. However, the Prime Minister stated that the UK-Argentina relationship will not fulfil its full potential until the Government of Argentina meets the public commitments it made in September 2016.

Students' improved examination results

It has been a record-breaking year for Falkland Islands students, with the Community School reporting 62% of students gaining five or more GCSEs at Grade C or above. This represents a 12% increase on the previous year and is significantly

higher than the previous five year average of 50%.

Ten students took twenty Advanced Level subjects in the UK and achieved A* - C grades in all twenty examinations, with over a third of the results at grade A or A*.

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For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

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Twitter @FalklandsinUK



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



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Brexit fishing talks in Brussels

As part of the Government Brexit engagement strategy, a series of meetings took place in Brussels at the end of April with UK, Irish, Croatian and Spanish MEPs, who have specialist fishing interests. The delegation was formed of representatives of the Falkland Islands Fishing Companies Association (FIFCA), the Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA, portfolio holder for Fisheries and Richard Hyslop (FIG Senior Policy Adviser).

The delegation met with Richard Ashworth MEP, John Flack MEP, Verónica Lope Fontagne MEP, Ashley Fox MEP, Clara Eugenia

Aguilera Garcia MEP, Ian Hudghton MEP, Seán Kelly MEP, Rupert Matthews MEP, Baroness Mobarik CBE MEP and Ruza Tomasic MEP.

The meetings highlighted that on average 41% of the Islands' GDP is derived from fishing, with 94% of the exports destined for the EU. As Spain is the gateway for almost all of these exports, any post Brexit tariff barriers could be very serious. The potential imposition of tariffs on Falklands fishery products could result in as much as a 6.6% decline in industry revenues with the EU.



Stuart Wallace from FIFCA meets Ashley Fox MEP in the European Parliament

Seafood Expo

The Falkland Islands Fishing Companies Association (FIFCA) exhibited at the world's largest seafood trade fair, Seafood Expo Global in Brussels at the end of April. With more than 28,500 buyers, suppliers, media and other seafood professionals from 150 countries attending, the Falklands produce was brought to the attention of leading buyers from around the world. The Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA attended to give Government support to this important sector.



The FIFCA stand

Historic humanitarian visit

Relatives of ninety previously unidentified Argentinian soldiers who are buried in the Islands, visited the Argentine cemetery at Darwin in March. Until the recent DNA work carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross, their graves carried the words, 'A soldier known only to God.' Headstones bearing the name of the newly identified soldiers were erected in time for the relatives' visit. A religious ceremony was performed at the cemetery to mark the occasion.

The Falkland Islands Government welcomed this visit and worked closely with the Argentine authorities and the Families Commission to ensure it was a success. Although this is a sensitive situation, the Falkland Islands community understands the significance of the visit to those relatives involved, and continues to be respectful in terms of the fallen men and their families.

This visit by the relatives, together with the help provided by UK Ministry of Defence assets based in the Islands, shows what can be achieved with goodwill on both sides.

New Falkland Islands owned trawler - Monteferro

A second new Stanley registered fishing vessel, the squid trawler Monteferro, has been built in Galicia, Spain to fish in the South Atlantic. It joins the first specialised toothfish longliner, CFL Hunter which was launched



Monteferro

Fishery talks

The September 2016 Joint Communiqué between the UK and Argentina, highlighted the need for improved cooperation and positive engagement on South Atlantic issues of mutual interest.

In this context, the Falkland Islands Government has been working with the UK Government to progress discussions on fish and squid stocks in the South

Atlantic, and the possibility of resuming the exchange of scientific fisheries data, which ceased under the previous Argentine Government.

An initial meeting took place in Buenos Aires in May. John Barton MBE, Director of Natural Resources, said: "Progress has been made in resuming dialogue with Argentina on the conservation of shared marine resources to allow for better management of shared fish stocks and improved sustainability."

Second commercial flight options

Airline operators across Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay have been invited to communicate their interest in providing a new weekly scheduled air service to and from the Falkland Islands. A specialist aviation consultancy has been appointed to manage and evaluate the process. They have received a high level of interest from a wide range of operators who have been invited to take part in the formal procurement process.

The second weekly commercial air link to the Falkland Islands could be operational by the end of 2018. This will include a monthly stop in Argentina, once in each direction, and will complement the existing weekly LATAM flight to and from Chile. It is hoped that it will support connectivity for the Islands and further development of the tourism market.

Engagement with the Commonwealth

XXI Commonwealth Games



The team in the Gold Coast

Over 6,600 athletes and officials from seventy-one Commonwealth Nations, Crown Dependencies and UK Overseas Territories attended the XXI Commonwealth Games hosted by the Gold Coast, Australia in April. Whilst the 2018 Games were hosted across Queensland, we fondly remember Brisbane hosting the XII Games in October 1982, where not only did the Falkland Islands compete for the first time, but the crowd gave the two competing Islanders a standing ovation at the opening

ceremony. One of the competitors in 1982, Gerald Cheek, took part in the Queen's Baton Relay that visited the Falkland Islands in August 2017.

This is the tenth Commonwealth Games the Islands have participated in. The team consisted of fourteen athletes competing in men's and women's Badminton and Shooting competitions (Ten Metre Air Pistol Shooting, Fifty Metre Rifle Prone, Trap, Double Trap, Queen's Individual and Queen's Prize Pairs). Mark Dodd secured a National Record in the

Queen's Individual Full Bore, whilst several other competitors gained Personal Bests. The team competitors were great sporting ambassadors for the Islands.

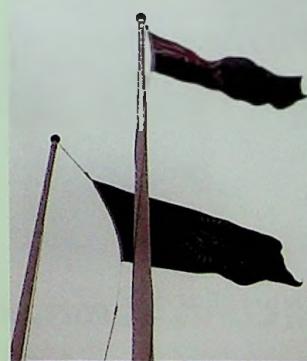
The Hon. Stacy Bragger MLA, portfolio holder for Sport, supported the team and represented the Government at the Commonwealth Sports Ministers Conference and Opening Ceremony. He said, "I am delighted that the Falkland Islands took part in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. This is an opportunity to take our

place on the international stage and to reinforce our friendships and cultural ties with other Commonwealth nations. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of each sportsperson and of course the support from local sponsors, without whom many of the teams would be unable to participate in these important Games. The work of the Falkland Islands Overseas Games Association cannot be underestimated as it enables our country to be represented at international events such as these."

Commonwealth Day celebrations

A wide range of activities took place to celebrate Commonwealth Day in March, including Hon. Leona Roberts MLA attending a reception at the Welsh Assembly Government in Cardiff and the Assistant Representative, Michael Betts, attending the official service at Westminster Abbey in the presence of HM The Queen. In the Islands the Deputy Governor read out the Queen's Commonwealth Day message to pupils at the secondary school in Stanley. It extolled the benefits of learning from others, and students took up this theme by participating in an hour long video conference with members of Global Youth

in New Delhi, India, in which they discussed their daily and school lives, along with hopes and aspirations for the future.



The Commonwealth and Falkland Islands flags fly together in Stanley

Commonwealth Youth Parliament

In March, two young Islanders, Tiphanie May and Lucinda Lowe, participated in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's ninth Youth Parliament held in Jersey. The Youth Parliament drew forty-nine delegates, representing fifteen countries and thirty-five jurisdictions. They replicated realistic parliamentary scenarios over several days, where participants tackled complex issues and explored the value of working together and forming allegiances. Tiphanie said "Not only did we learn about parliamentary process, but I have made new friends from all over the Commonwealth who now know a little something about the Falklands and will hopefully spread the word." Tiphanie followed up on her Youth Parliament experience by meeting MPs at the House of Commons in Westminster.



Tiphanie May outside the Houses of Parliament

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Hon. Leona Roberts MLA attended the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians conference in Cardiff, which focussed on the topic of '100 Years of Progress for Women'.

She then travelled to attend the CPA Executive Council Conference in Mauritius, where issues discussed included the proposed CPA Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

The Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA attended the Women's Forum event in April, jointly organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the UK Government, ahead of the biannual Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in London. She also took the opportunity to meet once again with the Foreign Secretary, Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP and Foreign Office Minister Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Duncan MP, both of whom she had last met in November.



Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP with Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA

US House of Representatives Resolution supports the Falkland Islands

A Resolution recognising the 2017 Falkland Islands General Election was submitted to the US House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs by members Mario Diaz Balart, George Holding and Derek Kilmer, in December 2017. The Resolution wording includes, 'The House of Representatives welcomes the free, fair, and democratic elections of the Falkland

Islands: acknowledges that only the people of the Falkland Islands can determine the future of the Falkland Islands; and recognizes the United Kingdom's sovereignty over the Falkland Islands for as long as the Falkland Islands desire to remain a self-governing Overseas Territory.' Resolutions are usually not passed until the end of the Congress, expected to be in January 2019.

Meetings with UK Ministers

The Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA and Hon. Roger Edwards MLA represented the Falkland Islands at the annual British Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council meeting in November, where they both met Penny Mordaunt MP, UK Secretary of State for International Development, and Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Duncan MP, Minister of State for Europe and the Americas. The Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA also joined leaders of other Overseas Territories in meeting the Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP and the Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP.

The Falklands delegation said talks were very high level, and provided a useful opportunity to put forward the Islands' concerns, such as about trade and Brexit, and listen to the issues faced by the other British Overseas Territories.

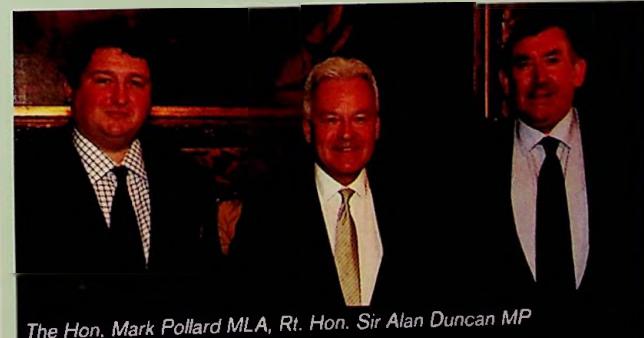
MLA Teslyn Barkman explained, "I have been keen to build links that demonstrate the real family that is the British Overseas Territories, and highlight the similar issues we face. We have thanked the UK Government for their unwavering support and focussed on putting forward our international concerns, particularly the issues that may be raised with Brexit."



UK Overseas Territories leaders meet with the Prime Minister

The Hon. Mark Pollard MLA and the Hon. Ian Hansen MLA attended the Trinidad and Tobago Energy Conference in January, where they learnt how a similar island state has diversified

through energy production. Whilst travelling through London they took the opportunity to meet Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Duncan MP, Minister of State for Europe and the Americas.



The Hon. Mark Pollard MLA, Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Duncan MP and the Hon. Ian Hansen MLA

Students in London



Students at the Natural History Museum

Higher education students from the Islands, aged 16-18, attending colleges in Chichester and Winchester have met with Falkland House staff and been invited to engage more with the office. A student visit to London

has taken place, including a private tour of the Natural History Museum, where the eight students were shown Archie, the giant squid, which was caught in the Falklands Fisheries Zone in 2004.

Lamb in the UK



Falkland Islands Lamb is now available in the UK. The prestigious and longest established Smithfield Market butchers, Keevil and Keevil, have started selling lamb leg and shoulder online, and it has proven to be their current most popular product. For more information, visit their website: www.keevilandkeevil.co.uk

Lamb from the Falkland Islands is renowned for being full of flavour, as it is slow reared in a pure, unpolluted environment. The sheep feed on native white grass and coastal greens all year round, and are completely free to roam the wide pastures.

Islands Plan 2018-22

The Falkland Islands Government has published The Islands Plan 2018-2022, which sets out its ambitions for improving the prosperity, health and wealth of people across the Falklands over the next four years.

The document outlines the priorities for the Legislative Assembly and focusses on key objectives to support economic growth, improving transport and communications links, modernising the Islands' infrastructure and protecting the environment.



Public diplomacy with South America

A group of three students, Marco Franceschini from Brazil, Hristo Gomez from Chile and Mauricio Giraudo from Uruguay visited in January as winners of a competition held by the UK Embassies in each of those countries, designed to foster closer links with the Falkland Islands. The winners had to enter a video entitled 'Why I would like to meet my neighbours in the Falkland Islands'. Whilst in Stanley they met local families in order to get a feel for day to day life of Islanders.

The British Ambassador to Uruguay, HE Mr. Ian Duddy and the Second Secretary at the British Embassy in Argentina, Richard Jones, visited on a fact-finding trip in February. Mr



Hristo Gomez, Marco
Franceschini and Mauricio
Giraudo with HE Mr. Ian Duddy

Duddy commented on the increased trading opportunities following Falkland Islands companies exhibiting at the Prado trade show in Montevideo. Richard Jones said it was invaluable to visit the Islands first-hand to be able to dispel any myths about Islanders and their way of life, that are present in Argentina.

In March a delegation of young political leaders from Uruguay visited and spent time discussing matters of common interest between the two countries with MLAs.



Armando Castaingdebat Ramirez, Hon Roger Edwards MLA,
Melisa Freiria, Maxi Campo and Hon Roger Spink MLA

Indian naval yacht, INSV Tarini



INSV Tarini crew land in Stanley

The 56-foot Indian Naval sailing vessel INSV Tarini stopped over in Stanley as part of its circumnavigation of the globe, having already covered over 15,600 nautical miles on the route from Goa, via New Zealand, before the penultimate stop in Cape Town and then finishing in Goa in May.

During their stay, the all-female crew took part in a series of community outreach activities, including visits to the hospital, schools and youth groups. They also took the opportunity to enjoy the very best that the Falkland

Islands has to offer, exploring the natural beauty of our flora and fauna, as well as learning about our culture and sampling local culinary local treats.

The Hon. Stacy Bragger MLA said: "The Indian Navy could not have picked better ambassadors for this endeavour, the crew fully embraced their time here and the community has really taken them to their hearts. There has been tremendous goodwill wherever they have gone and we hope that their visit has been an unforgettable one."

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Parliamentary visit



MPs meet MLAs

A cross-party group of eight Members of Parliament had an action packed week of visits and meetings, as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme in February. MPs Robert Courts, Nigel Huddleston, Dr Caroline Johnson, Gerald Jones, Will Quince, Ruth Smeeth, Royston Smith and Phil Wilson also met with Members of the Legislative Assembly in Stanley.

In March, the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Polar Regions, James Gray MP, joined a group visit to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, at the invitation of HE The Governor, Commissioner for South Georgia. He joined British Antarctic Survey

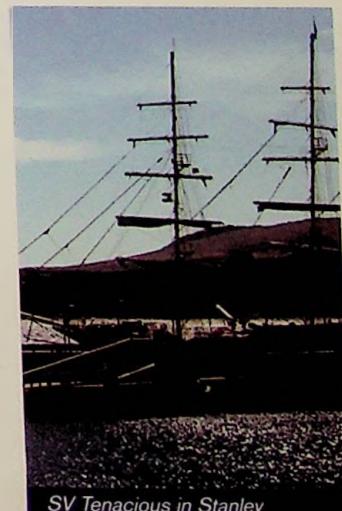
scientists, Foreign Office officials and others, on an expedition to see first-hand, on-going environmental work, in order to promote greater attention to the Islands, their delicate environment, and Britain's obligation to protect them.

SV Tenacious tall ship

The SV Tenacious is the largest wooden mixed-ability tall ship in the world. The ship was purpose built to accommodate disabled crew by the Jubilee Sailing Trust in 2000. She visited in March on the leg between New Zealand and South Africa, as part of a two and half year circumnavigation of the globe. Five local residents joined the crew in Stanley for the next sector of the voyage.

Increase in visitors to the Islands

Visitor numbers rose by 3.1% for the 2017-2018 summer season, with 57,496 arrivals. The increase is largely due to additional expedition ships visiting and fewer cancellations, due to the good summer weather. Overall there were 108 vessel calls, which is only one less than the record set in 2007-2008. The number of visits by vessels to outer islands and Camp reached a record breaking 156, up from 123 last year. A third of visitors are from the USA, followed by the UK and Canada.



SV Tenacious in Stanley



Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



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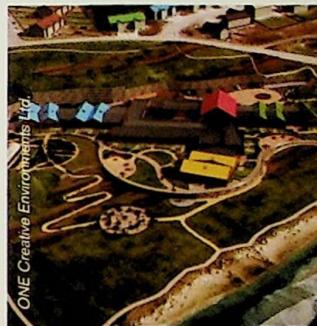
Extensive infrastructure programme

The Government (FIG) has set out an ambitious programme to deliver significant capital and infrastructure projects over the next five years. The plans include a new power station, development of a new port, improvements to the Mount Pleasant Airport international air terminal, a new vulnerable persons unit and the expansion of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital (KEMH). FIG will also continue to expand the ongoing roads and house-building

schemes. In addition to offering local job opportunities, the development programme will require overseas construction labour. This programme is separate to any future hydrocarbon development, but will assist such potential schemes.

Already contracted is One Creative Environments Ltd., from Worcester in the UK, who are extending and modernising the KEMH, and designing and project managing the new vulnerable persons unit in Stanley. The preferred construction company for the unit has been named as Galliford Try, who have delivered many outstanding projects including a new healthcare facility in Tristan da Cunha, an accommodation facility and energy centre for the Ministry of Defence in St Kilda, and a new retirement village in the UK.

Ramboll UK Ltd. has been appointed Professional Services Framework Contractor for the next phase to assist delivery of the wider capital investment programme, which includes developing the sixth phase of the Sapper Hill housing development, new port facilities, upgrades to the MPA international air terminal and improvements to Stanley Airport.



The planned vulnerable persons unit in Stanley.

United Nations



MLA Ian Hansen speaking at the UN.

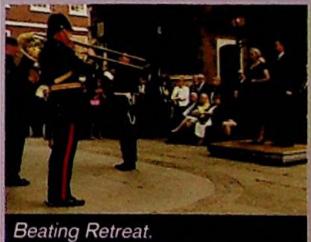
The Hon. Roger Edwards MLA and Hon. Ian Hansen MLA attended the annual United Nations Special Committee on Decolonisation (C24) in June to underline the Islanders right to self-determination. They refuted Argentine speakers claims of an implanted population with figures from the 2016 census, showing a diverse cultural mix of over 60 nationalities living in the Islands. MLA Hansen stated, "We have a right to live in peace, we have a right to our freedom and above all we have a right to determine our own future."

MLA Edwards added that the Falklands are not a colony of the United Kingdom but an Overseas Territory that has long since progressed beyond colonial status, and "through our own, internationally observed, referendum we have expressed our clear wish to remain an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom".

Annual Reception

The Annual Reception of the Falkland Islands Government took place at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in the City of London on 5th June. The much anticipated and over-subscribed event has taken place every year since 1974. A wide range of guests with Falkland Islands connections attended, from Government Ministers and MPs, those with business links with, or friends of, the Islands and members of the Armed Forces, including veterans who served in 1982.

Foreign Office Minister, Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Duncan KCMG MP, showed his and the UK Government's continued support for the Falkland Islands by his attendance. The Falkland Islands Representative in the UK, Sukey Cameron MBE, gave an upbeat review of the year, whilst Alan Huckle, Chair of the Falkland Islands Association, gave the Loyal Toast. The UK Armed Forces Minister, Colonel the Rt. Hon. Mark Lancaster TD VR MP, took the salute from the Band of the Parachute Regiment who performed the Beating Retreat to round off the evening.



Beating Retreat.

Oil exploration developments

Premier Oil Exploration have submitted an Environmental Impact Statement to the Government covering the proposed development of Phase 1 of the off-shore Sea Lion oilfield, which is located around 100 miles north of the Islands in the North Falklands Basin.

Commercial opportunities provisionally outlined for the third quarter of 2020 include provision of accommodation for personnel, helicopter facilities,

construction plant and equipment storage. The oil company met with the local business community to explain their procurement process. This will commence with expressions of interest, followed by formal tenders and the award of a number of long-term contracts for infrastructure and logistics contracts. This follows the Government 'Local Content' Code of Practice which actively encourages more involvement of local companies than seen in previous development work.

Business is booming

The biennial Business Climate Survey, conducted by the Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC), shows a significant increase in business numbers and confidence in the Islands economy since 2016. The survey completed by around half the businesses operating in the Falklands, revealed that 22 new companies have been established in the past two years.

Growth is primarily in the tourism, construction, retail, fishing and business services sectors. This almost equals the 24 start-ups in the preceding five years. The growth in confidence is also borne out in financial returns with a 9% increase in companies turning over more than £100,000 per annum. Nearly 60% of the survey participants had received financial assistance, mentoring or training from FIDC.



FIDC business survey results.

Brexit trade implications

We are proud of our self-sustainability, and have grown a prosperous economy largely dependent on fishing. The EU was the destination for 94% of our fish produce in 2017. These sales depend on tariff and quota-free access to the EU market.



Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA.

Relationship with the EU

The Falkland Islands have enjoyed a special partnership with the EU since the UK joined in 1973. Crucially this was formalised in 2001, when the Islands benefited from tariff and quota free access to EU markets, through the introduction of the Overseas Association Decision (OAD). This seeks to "promote economic development and social development of the

Overseas Countries and Territories and establish close economic relations between them and the Community as a whole". We, like other UK Overseas Territories, are a member of EU Overseas and Countries Association (OCTA) giving us a platform to improve economic development, cooperate and defend our right to self-determination with the EU.

The Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA, portfolio holder for Brexit/European Union policy, Natural Resources, Mineral Resources, and Falkland

Land Holdings discusses the potential impacts of a no-deal Brexit, at this critical stage in the negotiations.

The importance of the single market

Did you know that 19% of calamari (loligo squid) eaten in Europe is from the Falklands? As a result of current tariff and quota free trade, 94% of the Falkland Islands' exports of fishery products, by weight, and one-third of our meat went to the EU in 2017. This amounted to 42,286 tonnes of fish with a customs value of €139m, whilst meat and wool exports generated £7.5m. Fishery products caught and exported to the EU by the Falkland Islands' fishing industry differ from those caught by the UK industry and therefore do not compete in the market sector.

Virtually all our fishery exports enter the EU via Port of Vigo in

Spain, before entering the supply chain for distribution both within Europe and globally. Given the dominance of the EU as the primary market for Falklands' fishery products and a major market for meat exports, retaining current tariff and quota free access to EU markets is critically important.



Photo: Chris Moreno

Difficulty in developing new markets

The market for calamari is Southern Europe. Although our calamari is a premium product, the market is still price-sensitive and the addition of tariffs would reduce sales and profitability. Developing new, non-EU export markets for fishery products, will be difficult outside of free trade agreements that allow similar access to what is currently enjoyed within the EU. This is

particularly the case in the Asian markets where demand is highest but competition is strong, and both political and tariff barriers exist. The logistics of transporting fishery products from the South Atlantic mean that the established export routes have been developed over decades, and it is not a simple logistical or economic matter to switch markets.



Falkland Islands seafood exports that enter the EU via Spain, before onward distribution.



Economy in a Brex

As part of the Falkland Islands Government's Brexit engagement strategy, an economic impact assessment has been undertaken looking at various scenarios resulting from the UK leaving the EU with a poor or no-deal. Specifically, this assessment looks at the impact of World Trade Organisation (WTO) Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs being imposed on the Islands' fish and meat exports to the EU. The tariffs for current fish exports range from 6 – 18% and for meat 12.8%, plus a fixed amount of around €155.68 per 100kg, depending on the cut, which equates to an average meat tariff of 42%. Such a scenario is estimated to result in immediate losses of up to £9 million for the Islands' fishing industry and would

make meat exports to the EU unviable.

This compelling research highlights that the fishing industry is responsible, on average, for 41% of Falklands' GDP and in 2016, for two-thirds of corporation tax receipts and at least one-third of total Government revenue. It also makes clear the importance of agriculture to local employment – combined with wool production and exports, the agricultural sector is the second largest employer.

We estimate that in the event of a no-deal Brexit, potential annual losses to the fishing industry could reach 16% on fishing industry revenues. For the meat industry potential annual losses on revenue could be as high as 30%. These losses are substantial in the context of the Falkland Islands and would have a direct negative impact on employment levels in the Islands and the wider economy.

Natural environmental implications

Over 90% of the UK's biodiversity is found in its Overseas Territories. The Falkland Islands are one of the great havens for the world's seabirds, including over one million breeding Gentoo, King, Macaroni, Magellanic and Rockhopper penguins. The Islands are home to significantly important colonies of petrels and hold 70% of the world population of Black-browed Albatrosses. A quarter of a million pairs of albatross breed on one island, making one of the largest colonies on earth.

The limited economies of most Territories are to a large extent

reliant on their natural environments, through fisheries, eco-tourism and agriculture. Our economy and culture is defined by our unique environment and external support is essential in bolstering efforts to research, enshrine and responsibly manage our ecosystems.

The EU has historically recognised this and supported the strategic importance of the wildlife and environments of the Overseas Territories through an instrument called Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services in Territories of Europe Overseas (BEST). This aims to support the remarkable wildlife in the Territories of EU Member

States. British Territories are not Members States, yet nor are they independent countries and are not able to access the EU's internal environment funds or international environment funds like the Global Environment Facility. BEST aims to address this and through this instrument, the UK's Territories have consequently received at least £1 million per year.

Independent non-governmental organisations (NGOs) undertaking critical research and conservation work in the Falklands have received €0.6m funding to support important environmental research from BEST since 2008. They are concerned that losing the more long-term BEST grant awards would affect their work. There is a vocal commitment from the UK Government to provide funding for environmental research with initiatives like Darwin Plus. However, there are genuine concerns that any new UK funding mechanisms may not have the same long-term security as BEST, or indeed that eligibility criteria may be different. We are yet to see any firm proposals from the UK on a replacement for BEST.

Political status

The Falkland Islands are proud to be a member of the UK family. We are encouraged by the UK Government's continued support for the Overseas Territories. Our status as a UK Overseas Territory is currently recognised by the EU through Article 198 of the Lisbon Treaty. It is clear that once the UK withdraws from the EU we will simultaneously lose this automatic recognition of our status.

Our fellow members of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) recognise and support our right to self-determination. Once the Lisbon Treaty no longer applies, we realise that some EU member states may need to be encouraged to remain supportive of Falkland Islanders' fundamental rights. UK Overseas Territories may lose our membership of OCTA when the UK formally leaves the EU, despite the non-UK OCTA members making it very clear they would like us to remain. This is subject to negotiation and is something we have raised in our on-going discussions with the UK Government.

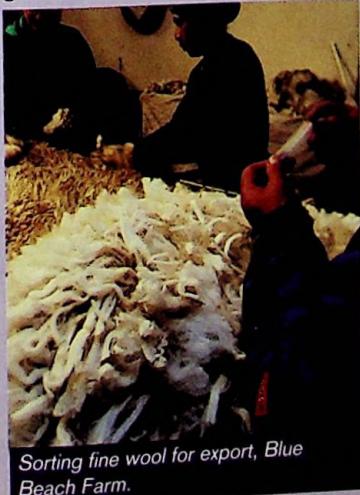
Given that self-determination is a fundamental right under the Charter of the United Nations, it is critical that the EU continues to respect the wishes of the Falkland Islanders. Islanders expressed themselves with astonishing uniformity in a referendum held in 2013, with a turnout of 92% choosing by a majority of 99.8% to remain a self-governing Overseas Territory of the UK. We hope the UK Government make this point in their EU withdrawal negotiations.



EU by Loligo Seafood

'no-deal'

The impact of these losses on the annual operating budget of the Government (2017) is predicted to be up to 6%, damaging our ability to deliver essential public services and to invest in critical infrastructure for the future growth of the Islands.



Our Brexit priorities

We are encouraged by our engagement with the UK Government to date and are in regular contact with officials in all the relevant Government Departments. We are, though, concerned that in the heat of the negotiations somewhere as small and as remote as the Falkland Islands could easily be forgotten amongst all the other competing negotiation priorities.

Given the dominance of the EU as the primary market for Falkland

Islands' fishery products, and a major market for meat exports, the Falkland Islands need to retain current tariff and quota free access to EU markets. Anything other than this would have a detrimental impact on the income of Islanders, businesses, our government and the wider economy. In turn this is bad news for the economic success stories of the British Overseas Territories. In a situation where the UK is unable to achieve a deal with the EU and leaves in March 2019 with

no transition or implementation period, the Falkland Islands' fishing and agricultural sectors could require adaptation assistance from the UK, particularly in the short to medium term.

Brexit and trade will therefore be a major focus on the Islands' stand at the UK Party Conferences this September and October.

Follow the debate on Twitter @FalklandsinUK #BrexitFalklands or online at www.falklandsbrexit.gov.fk

Excellent GCSE results

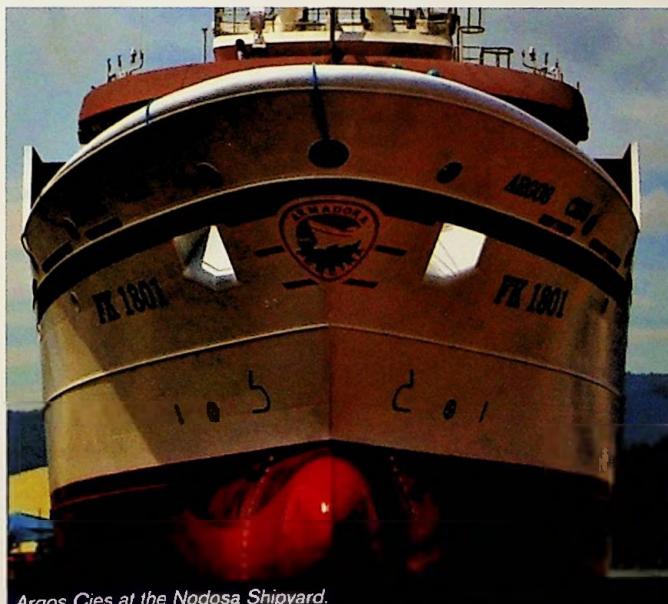
The Falkland Islands Community School is delighted to report that their Year 11 students made significant progress over their time at the school in Stanley and achieved good GCSE results with a pass rate of 98.87%. In total, 177 GCSE exams were taken in 18 subjects by 23 students, with 63% of all results at pass grades A* to C, or 9 to 4 on the new GCSE grading system.

Head Teacher, Neil Appleby, said, "I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the year group on their results and thank the teachers, parents and wider community who supported them. On behalf of all the staff I wish our students well in whatever they choose to do in the future. These young people have made significant progress during their time at school, increasing

the secondary school's progress indicator from 0.12 good progress last year, to 0.39 this year, which is a superb achievement and the best the school has seen in the three years that this measure has been used. This was in the midst of a challenging environment as GCSEs experienced major reform, however our students rose to the challenge and I am very proud of them."

Acting Director of Education, Karen Steen, echoed these congratulations and said, "The percentage of students achieving a good GCSE pass has increased from last year, as has the progress made by our students. We are also pleased to note that the percentage of students achieving at least one A grade (or a 7 under the new system) is 57% this year, compared with 20.5% in the UK.

New trawler, Argos Cies, joins the fleet



Argos Cies at the Nodosa Shipyard.

A new €21 million fishing trawler, built by the Nodosa Shipyard in north-western Spain, has been launched and will join the Falklands' fleet later this year. The 74 metre long by 14 metre wide vessel has been designed for low environmental impact and fuel consumption, and incorporates the latest energy saving technology in its on-board systems. It is designed specifically to fish

loligo squid in Falkland Islands' waters. The trawler is one of the new generation of Falklands' trawlers, following Monteferro, also built by the Nodosa Shipyard, and CFL Hunter in 2017. Argos Cies was commissioned by the Jupiter Fishing Company, a joint venture between Spanish fishing company Pereira and the Argos Group in the Falklands.

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Falkland Islands Community School.

Whatever our students go on to do, I hope they grasp all opportunities available to them. Many will continue to work with us as they move into further education or into apprenticeships, while others

have already secured employment."

The majority of students continuing in full-time education will now board in the UK at either Chichester College or Peter Symonds College in Winchester.

4G coverage available

Fourth generation broadband cellular mobile network (4G) has successfully been introduced by Sure South Atlantic Ltd. following a multi-million pound infrastructure investment. The new service is initially available in the Stanley and Mount Pleasant

areas, along with larger Camp settlements like Goose Green. It is part of a wider new 2G mobile network across six remote areas of the Islands, which were identified through a software coverage predictor, using NASA shuttle radar topography data.

Plastic free

A new community group named Plastic-free Stanley has been set up which is dedicated



to reducing single use plastics in the Falkland Islands. They have undertaken a number of initiatives, including beach clean-ups around Stanley Harbour. The group is working with UK based charity, 'Surfers against Sewage', in their plastic-free communities and plastic-free coastlines projects. Progress has already been made, including the Stanley Running Club procuring reusable drinks-station cups for their races and the replacement of plastic straws, with paper and metal versions, in local restaurants.

Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk



Falklands Focus

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 104

July 2019

Annual Reception



Rt Hon. the Lord West of Spithead, with Sukey Cameron MBE

The Annual Reception of the Falkland Islands Government took place at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in the City of London on 4th June.

The much anticipated event has taken place every year since 1974. A wide range of guests with Falkland Islands connections attended, from students studying in the UK, to those with business links with, or friends of, the Islands and members of the Armed Forces, including veterans who served in 1982.

We were also delighted to host Government Ministers and MPs, Shadow Ministers and Peers, who showed their personal and



Rt Hon. Mark Lancaster TD MP with Hon. Roger Edwards MLA

the UK Government's continued support for the Falkland Islands by their attendance. The Hon. Roger Edwards, Member of the Legislative Assembly in the Falkland Islands, gave an upbeat review of the year and a tribute to the retiring Representative in the UK, Sukey Cameron MBE. John Duncan OBE, Chair of the Falkland Islands

Association, read the message of Loyal Greetings and reply, and proposed the Loyal toast.

The Commandant General Royal Marines, Maj. Gen. Charlie Stickland, took the salute from the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, who performed Beating Retreat to round off the evening.

Ceremonial flag for Portsmouth

On 24th May MLAs Mark Pollard, Leona Roberts and Roger Spink visited Portsmouth to present a ceremonial Falkland Islands flag and plaque to the City of Portsmouth and its veterans, to be flown at the Falklands Memorial, by the Square Tower, on the iconic Portsmouth harbour.

The flag was presented by MLA Leona Roberts to the Lord Mayor, Cllr David Fuller, before being blessed by Bishop Paul Miles Knight. The flag was raised on the Square Tower flagpole, overlooking the entrance to the historic harbour, in the presence of a Guard of Honour by veterans of the 1982 Conflict and accompanied by a lone Scots piper playing 'The Crags of Tumbledown'.

After the official ceremony, Councillor Steve Pitt, Deputy Leader of Portsmouth Council, told the group that a permanent flag pole flying a Falkland Islands flag is to be erected by the memorial, and the donated flag would be used for special ceremonial occasions.

The Falklands Memorial with a flag would act as a permanent reminder for the sacrifice service personnel made for their country and the gratitude felt by Islanders for their liberation. Cllr Pitt also announced that he hoped to create closer ties between Portsmouth and Stanley. The Lord Mayor added, "It means a great deal to us and we will fly the flag with pleasure".

MLA Roberts said that she was honoured to present the flag to the historic city with such

close ties to the Task Force and 1982 Conflict, and that it was still relevant with HMS Clyde, that defends the Islands, having been built and based in Portsmouth. She said, "As the Falkland Islands develop and grow, we always remember the motto 'From the sea, freedom'; something quite symbolic and powerful to say in such a historic place, from which the Task Force left, and sadly, not all returned. There was such a great sacrifice made by so many, which has

allowed our country to make such progress since".

Veteran, Barry Jones said, "to have a flag flying 365 days a year to remember all those who gave their lives is terrific".

MLA Roberts concluded by saying, "There is always a very special place for the veterans and their families and communities in the hearts of the Falkland Islanders, and now here with the plaque and flag, there is part of the Falkland Islands in the heart of Portsmouth".

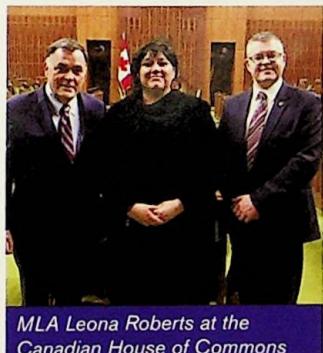


MLAs Leona Roberts and Mark Pollard with Lord Mayor Cllr David Fuller and veteran Kenneth Slater

Public diplomacy

Members of the Legislative Assembly have had a busy period of public diplomacy in recent months. In the UK autumn, the Hon. Mark Pollard MLA and the Hon. Stacy Bragger MLA, attended the Labour and Conservative Party Conferences, followed by MLA Pollard attending the Natural Capital Assessment conference in St. Helena in March.

The Hon. Roger Edwards MLA attended the EU Overseas Countries and Territories Association Ministerial Conference in Tahiti, French Polynesia, (with FIGO Deputy Representative, Michael Betts) and the UN C24 Regional Conference in Grenada.



MLA Leona Roberts at the Canadian House of Commons



Michael Betts and MLA Edwards in Tahiti

The Hon. Leona Roberts MLA, has participated in three Commonwealth Parliamentary Association events in Canada and the UK. The Hon. Roger Spink MLA has attended the International Committee of the Red Cross meeting in Switzerland.

In December, the Hon. Teslyn Barkman MLA participated in the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) and related UK Overseas Territories Association meetings in London.



MLA Barkman with Exiting the EU Minister, Robin Walker MP



Shadow Defence Secretary, Nia Griffith MP, meets MLAs Bragger and Pollard



MLA Barkman with other Joint Ministerial Council delegates

New Falkland Islands Government Representative



New FIG Representative, Richard Hyslop

Richard Hyslop has been appointed as the new UK Representative, succeeding Sukey Cameron MBE, who retires from the post in October 2019, after 36 years of service (29 of which were as UK Representative).

Richard is currently employed as the Senior Policy Adviser working within the Policy and Economic Development Directorate of the Falkland Islands Government. He has 16 years' experience working within Westminster and Brussels, having worked for members of the Scottish and European Parliaments, been a Civil Servant, and ran his own public affairs consultancy. Prior to taking up his current role, he was Chief Executive of an industry trade body.

On his appointment, Richard said, "I am honoured to have been appointed as the new UK Representative. I look forward to working with the team at FIGO to build on the successes of the current UK Representative, Sukey Cameron, who has served the Islands with distinction over a number of years."

FIG is also pleased to announce that the Assistant Representative Michael Betts, has been re-designated as Deputy Representative, and will have a strengthened future role.

MLA Roger Spink said, "Richard has a wealth of experience and will be able to hit the ground running at a challenging time in UK politics."

Barry Rowland, Chief Executive, welcomed the appointment saying, "I am delighted that we have been able to appoint someone with Richard's experience. These are both exciting and challenging times for the Falkland Islands and along with MLAs, I am confident that he will bring his experience to bear to ensure that the Falkland Islands continue to be credibly represented in the UK and Europe."

FCO Permanent Under Secretary

In April, Sir Simon McDonald became the first Foreign and Commonwealth Office Head of Diplomatic Service to visit the Falkland Islands. In an action-packed visit across the Islands he met with members of the Legislative Assembly and senior civil servants. Many Brexit issues were on the agenda and he reiterated that FIG and the FCO are "working on a common agenda, which is to secure the future of the Falkland Islands".



Sir Simon McDonald at Government House

Record breaking visitor numbers

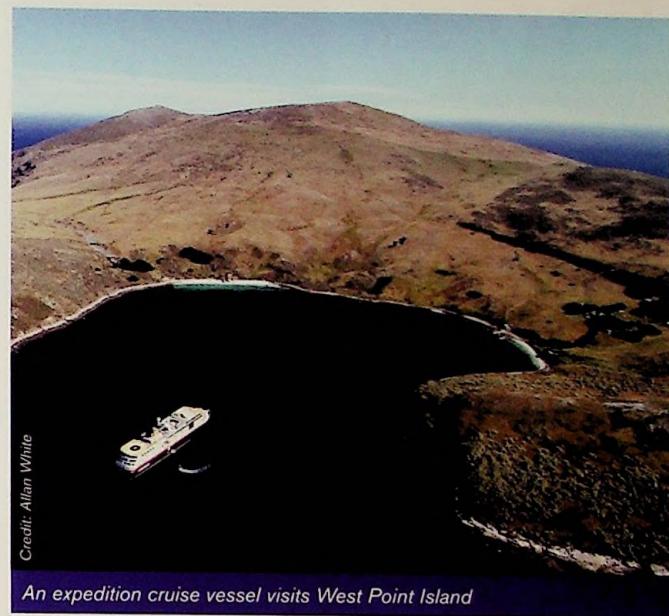
The Falklands tourism industry has experienced a record breaking summer cruise season, exceeding the previous record year of 2008. The 2018-2019 season, which runs in the austral summer from October to April, ended with a record 62,505 passengers arriving in the Islands, beating the previous high by 20 visitors. The sector has experienced strong growth since 2013 and next season looks set to break the records again, with the Falkland Islands Tourist Board (FITB) forecasting around 70,000 visitors.

Expedition cruise vessels (smaller vessels that visit several islands), made 143 calls to Camp locations. West Point was the most visited island, with 32% of all visits, followed by Saunders Island (24%) and Carcass Island (17%). Executive Director of FITB, Stephanie Middleton, said: "We are delighted with the continued growth of the cruise sector. In part the rapidly

expanding expedition cruise market is driving this. Not only are we experiencing growth in the number of vessels, but they are also carrying more passengers and bringing new levels of luxury to this market."

However, this season it was the larger cruise vessels, which only call into Stanley, which drove the growth in passenger numbers, carrying almost 49,500 visitors, up from 44,000 in 2017-2018. The Royal Princess visited Stanley in February with 3,430 passengers, who exceeded the 3,200 population of the entire Islands!

The United States was once again the largest market, with over 22,000 visitors, followed by the UK, with 8,000 visitors. Ms. Middleton added: "Canada, Germany and Australia were the next three largest markets. The other sector we are watching is the Chinese, with 1,700 arrivals this season and a consistent annual growth of 30% per annum for the last six years".



Credit: Allan White

An expedition cruise vessel visits West Point Island

Land-based tourism also continues to develop, with over 5,100 each year visiting via the RAF Airbridge or weekly LATAM flights.

The visitor survey shows that walking or hiking was the most popular activity, followed by

photography then bird watching. The importance of hiking is one of the reasons FITB have recently been focussing on the development of walking trails.

For more information visit: www.FalklandIslands.com

MPs visit

Eight UK Members of Parliament visited the Islands as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme during the February recess. The Scheme was founded in 1989 and arranges all-party visits for MPs, in order to improve the quality of understanding and debate in Parliament on military issues, by providing MPs with hands-on experience of the roles of the Army, Navy and RAF. As the Falkland Islands provide a unique tri-service training area, it is a popular destination for the Scheme. During the week, the group took part in training exercises and visits including an overnight trip on HMS Clyde, visiting the Mount Harriet battlefield and a helicopter flight. They also had the opportunity to hold a meeting with Members of the Legislative Assembly in Stanley.

The Members who participated in the visit were: Alex Chalk,



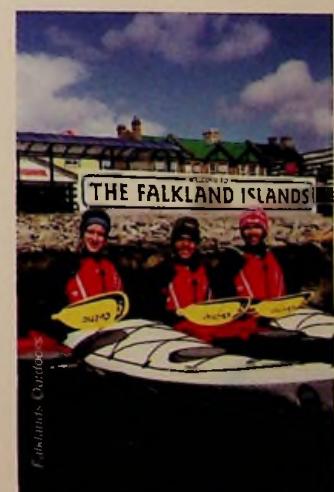
MPs meet MLAs in Stanley

Vernon Coaker, Nic Dakin, Steve Double, Julia Lopez, Rachel Maclean, Damien Moore and Luke Pollard.

Luke Pollard, Labour MP for Plymouth Sutton & Devonport, said: "For me this is about learning, about what our forces are doing in the Falklands, and why their presence here in the South Atlantic really matters - not only to the Falkland Islanders, but also for the folks back home in the United Kingdom".

MP for Redditch, Rachel Maclean said: "It is essential for me as an MP to understand their critical role keeping us safe and free, so

that I am in a position to make important decisions that affect them. I could not be prouder of our troops after spending time with them. The trip was also an important opportunity to learn in much more detail about the strategic role of the Falkland Islands, and the integration of all three armed forces working together. It was clear from my working meetings with Members of the Legislative Assembly that the UK's relationship with the Islands continues to be strong, and there are many opportunities for future collaboration across a wide variety of policy areas".

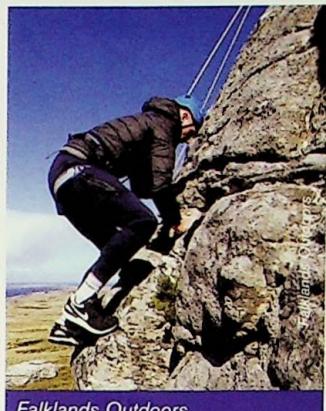


South American students

Falklands Outdoors

This is a new leisure opportunity established by Islander Dan Biggs in 2018, that offers the chance to explore the Islands in the most unique and memorable ways possible, with activities available including kayaking, climbing, hill-walking, wildlife tours and surfing. Falklands Outdoors seeks to present the amazing wildlife and landscape from a unique angle. The itineraries offer a chance to explore untouched locations in true wilderness.

www.falklandsoutdoors.com



Falklands Outdoors

Recent visitors to the Islands

FA Ambassadorial XI team

The Football Association (FA) XI Ambassadorial team, selected from non-league teams around England, participated in a goodwill visit to the Falkland Islands in November. They played two, and won both football matches in Stanley, the first against the Falkland Islands national team, winning 3-1. They then played the British Forces South Atlantic Islands XI, winning 3-2.

The party also participated in coaching sessions with the two schools in Stanley and the junior school at the Mount Pleasant.

Andrew Shaw, Chairman of the FA Representative Matches Committee, said "This has been a fantastic opportunity to undertake a goodwill visit to both the Islanders and our armed forces personnel. School visits are an integral part of these trips and highlight the work we do, as well as playing matches. I know that all those involved were very excited about this trip."

As the visit coincided with Remembrance Day, the FA delegation attended the service at Christ Church Cathedral in Stanley, and participated in the memorial wreath laying ceremony.



The England XI and Falkland Islands captains

Marcel Theroux

English novelist, journalist and broadcaster Marcel Theroux visited the Islands in March, researching for a Daily Telegraph travel feature, published on 15th June. Whilst best known as a prolific novelist, Marcel is now taking up travel writing, following in his father, Paul's footsteps. In an interview with Penguin News, he commented on his impression of the Islands, saying, "I wasn't expecting the light to be so amazing. I also wasn't prepared for



the distinctiveness of the culture, of the Islanders themselves. As a city dweller I am impressed by the resourcefulness; I feel very soft compared to some of the Islanders".

"Land Rover Islands"

The biggest German car magazine, Auto Bild ran a six page article about the Islands, in May, which compares the Islanders love and loyalty of the 'Rover', with the German obsession with the Volkswagen. In a wide ranging article across several islands, the reporter Claudio Maintz explores the various uses of the Land Rover, from farms to fire, police to pleasure and hearse to hen houses.



BILD Land Rover Island

FIGAS 70th anniversary



Drew Robertson featured in Flyer magazine

the Falkland Islands Government Air Service commenced service on Christmas Eve 1948 with an air ambulance case. The first aircraft was an Auster, originally used as a land based plane, but soon after, floats were fitted. This configuration of float plane continued on various aircraft models, including a Norseman and then the Beaver aircraft, which

continued in service until the land-based Britten-Norman Islander model replaced them in October 1979.

During the 2018-19 austral summer season, FIGAS carried over 7,357 passengers, of whom over 3,000 were visitors, up 11% on the number of tourists flown last season. In order to deal with increased demand, two new aircraft are on order for next year.

Falklands Helicopter Services



Falklands Helicopter Services

A new helicopter charter service, run by Islanders Tom and Jane Chater, has been established to enable customers to reach locations throughout the Islands quickly, practically,

flexibly and above all safely, and without the requirement of long off-road driving.

The helicopter service is the first company in the Islands operating flights to access the fantastic king penguin colony at Volunteer Point with just a 25 minute flight from Stanley, normally accessible only by 4x4 vehicle taking approximately three hours. They also offer scenic flights around Stanley and tailor-made charters to many other locations around the Islands.

www.falklandshelicopterservices.com

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Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542 Fax: 020 7222 2375
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk

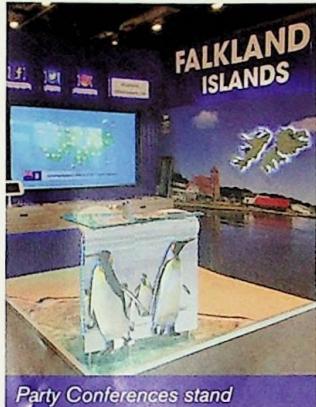


FalklandsFocus

News From The Falkland Islands Government

Issue 105

September 2019



Party Conferences stand

32nd year at Party Conferences

This year marks the thirty-second in succession that the Falkland Islands Government have exhibited at the conferences, offering a great opportunity to meet with thousands of delegates and debate wide ranging issues. Many Ministers and Shadow Ministers visit the stand to discuss matters at more length, whilst MP friends of the

Falklands, many of whom have visited the Islands, call by to maintain contact.

The main topics to discuss this year include Brexit, trade issues, beneficial ownership and relations with Argentina.

Falkland Islands Representative in the UK, Sukey Cameron MBE, has attended for all of the past thirty-two years, but as she is retiring

at the end of October, this will be her last season of conferences. This year she will be joined by Members of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Ian Hansen and Hon. Stacy Bragger, along with the Representative designate Richard Hyslop and the Deputy Representative, Michael Betts.

Concerns of the potential impact of Brexit

Despite being 8,000 miles away from London, the economy of the Islands is deeply linked to the EU's single market. Our largest export is fish, with 78,000 tonnes - a value of £173m - being exported to the EU in 2018. Based on official data from DataComex, 34% of all the loligo squid (calamari) imported by Spain, came from the Falkland Islands in 2017.

As the Brexit negotiations continue, it is not for the Falkland Islands to tell Members of Parliament in the UK to support a particular deal; what is important to the Islands is that the UK leaves the EU with a deal that retains our current tariff and quota-free access to EU27 markets. If the UK were to leave the EU without a deal, fishery exports from the Falkland Islands into the EU27 could be subject to WTO tariffs of between 6 % and 18 %.

Meat products would likely be subject to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture and tariffs of an average of 42 %. However the uncertainty surrounding a no-deal is already having an effect on meat exports, with lower prices and slower sales already experienced.

The Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCo) reports that buyers from EU27 have been reluctant to buy produce without knowing whether it

would be subject to import tariffs by the time ships arrive in the EU. The net effect has been a 25% drop in prices compared to 2018.

The slow sales are also causing an issue with storage capacity, which leads to highly disruptive halts to abattoir production. The speculation of a no-deal Brexit is likely to further hamper sales, and the problems encountered this year may well be exacerbated in 2020 and 2021.

The Falkland Islands Government fears hefty tariffs will impact its ability to invest in critical infrastructure, jobs and public services, for the future growth of the Islands, as laid out in the Islands Plan.

Hon. Leona Roberts MLA, Chair of the Legislative Assembly, said; 'The Falkland Islands

do not question Brexit; we respect the right of the people of the UK to determine their own future. However, it is vital that the current uncertainty surrounding Brexit is resolved as soon as possible as it is already having a negative impact on our exports to both the UK and the EU27'.

'We have been engaging with UK Parliamentarians and officials for many months now, in order to ensure that the Islands are not forgotten in the negotiations, and are grateful for the support we have received'.

'All that we ask is that our voice is heard by those in Westminster who are tasked with the ongoing Brexit negotiations, so that a good deal for the UK is also a good deal for the Falkland Islands'. www.BrexitFalklands.gov.fk

Public Registers of Beneficial Ownership

The Falkland Islands Government (FIG) is concerned that the amendment proposed by Andrew Mitchell MP and Dame Margaret Hodge MP, to section 51 of the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018, would require compliance by all UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) no later than December 2020 regardless of whether they have an offshore financial industry. For the Falkland Islands, this poses a burden that is disproportionate to the risk it presents.

Section 51 applies to all UKOTs but appears to be primarily targeted at those territories with offshore financial centres. However, the Falkland Islands is not an offshore financial centre, and it is highly unlikely that one could be established there, given the geographic isolation, lack of appropriate telecommunications infrastructure, and the geopolitical challenges that are faced.

Nonetheless, FIG has committed to implementing a public register of beneficial ownership and agrees that there are benefits to greater transparency and recognises its role in ensuring good governance. However, reasonable time is needed to do so, given their unique challenges. With great effort, the Falkland Islands can and will commit to implementing a registry of beneficial ownership by 2023, which aligns with the UK Government's current timetable.

It is critically important to the Falkland Islands that MPs do not support the amendment as worded, and that instead, it is reworded to reflect the circumstances and needs of smaller and more isolated UKOTs without offshore financial services.

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Relations with Argentina



A LATAM aircraft at Mount Pleasant airfield

Following the principles set out in the July 1999 Joint Statement and Exchange of Letters, later supported through the signing of the 2016 Joint Communique between Britain and Argentina, it was agreed to improve cooperation and positive engagement on South Atlantic issues of mutual interest. The Falkland Islands Government has been working with the UK Government to progress cooperation in several key areas; resuming the exchange of scientific fisheries data on fish and squid stocks in the South Atlantic; developing a second weekly commercial flight link with South America; and identifying Argentine soldiers buried in the Islands.

There has been progress in these areas. Fishery data is now being shared between the Falkland Islands Government Fisheries Department and their Argentine counterparts on crucial South Atlantic fish stocks, and two joint scientific cruises have taken place.

An agreement has been finalised with LATAM Airlines Brazil to introduce a second international commercial air link to the Falkland Islands, with a weekly service from São Paulo (with a monthly

stop in Cordoba, Argentina), complementing the existing weekly flight to Santiago, Chile. LATAM is Latin America's leading airline group, serving over 140 destinations in 27 countries worldwide. The new route will allow passengers to make onward connections to multiple destinations in South and North America and Europe. The inaugural flight has been scheduled for November.

The remains of over 100 previously unknown Argentine soldiers have been identified by DNA work carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross (in close conjunction with the Falkland Islands Government, Argentine authorities and the Families Commission). This has been followed with two humanitarian visits by relatives to the Argentine cemetery near Darwin.

Presidential elections are scheduled for October 2019 in Argentina. Whilst the current administration under President Macri has seen progress in the UK-Argentina relationship, and issues related to the Falkland Islands, the two countries renewed relationship will not fulfil its full potential until the Government of Argentina fully implements the commitments it made in September 2016.



Fishery Protection Vessel Protegat

Student success



Some of the students studying in the UK

It has been an outstanding year of results for Falkland Islands students. At universities in the UK and Canada, students from the Islands have graduated with distinction. Notable accolades include Sorrel Pompett Robertson with a First in History from Exeter; Hannah McPhee with a First in Biomedical Science from Queen's Belfast; and Shannon Alazia with a First in Geography and Amber Goss with a First in Biological Sciences, both at the University of the West of England in Bristol. Other graduates include Amy Elstow-Guest completing her Biology degree at Oxford Brookes; Ross Stewart in Sports Science at Leeds and Theo Deligniers who attended the University of British Columbia in Canada, where he studied Tourism Management.

Advanced level students have passed their examinations at Collyer's College in Horsham, Peter Symonds College in Winchester and Worcester Sixth Form College, and are headed to universities in Birmingham, Lancashire and Salford.

Vocational graduates have successfully passed Diplomas (several with distinction), in Agriculture, Animal Management, Childcare, Health and Social Care and Information Technology, at Chichester and Sparsholt Colleges.

Over a third of this year's

Falkland Islands Community School (FICS) leavers will attend college overseas following the release of their GCSE results in August. Director of Education Rachel Seddon, said; 'Being a very small school there is a need to be cautious about making year on year comparisons, but we are very pleased to report that our results are happily in line with our hopes for this group of pupils. We are delighted by these results which clearly demonstrate the tremendous effort made by both our students and staff; they should all feel very proud of these achievements. The entire cohort performed almost a grade better than their target grade, proving once again that the progress that students make at FICS is above average'.

More than 50% of students achieved the five or more good passes needed to go to college and the number of young people electing to continue into further education is 10% higher than the previous year. A significant number of students are electing to join the Falkland Islands Apprenticeship Scheme, which combines work experience with continued studies at the Falkland Islands College in Stanley. This college offers a wide range of qualifications; is City & Guilds registered and offers training delivered either in the classroom, by developing skills through the workplace, distance learning or accessing online courses.



FICS in Stanley

Focus on farming

The Falkland Islands latitude 51 degrees south of the equator is similar to mid Wales, but the absence of the Gulf Stream means the Islands straddle the sub Antarctic oceanic climate zones. The landscape is generally undulating, similar to Dartmoor, with mountain ranges reaching 2,300 feet, and in total comprises 4,700sq miles; almost the size of Northern Ireland. The weather is less seasonal than in the UK, but the daylight intensity is high and winds more prevalent, resulting from the temperature differential between the South American land mass and Antarctica, 900 miles to the south. Annual rainfall in Stanley is 24in (610mm), but drier on West Falkland. Temperatures can reach 21c in summer and just below freezing in winter.

Early ships rounding Cape Horn introduced cattle as a food source supply base, which developed into an initial Gaucho-type cattle breeding economy, until the Falkland Islands Company introduced Cheviot sheep for wool from 1851. Numbers peaked at 807,000 sheep in 1898 and now number 490,000 (153 per inhabitant). In 1982 a large proportion of farmed animals were killed for food by the occupying Argentinian forces, so in 1983 an extraordinary 'Noah's Ark' of generously donated replacement animals

Falklands' farming facts (2017):

Farm population: 291

Land area: 4,700sq miles (12,100sq km)

Farm holdings: Total 81.

Ranging from 745 acres (301ha) – 376,992 acres (152,320ha)

Average size 34,827 acres (14,072ha)

Sheep numbers: 490,113

Annual wool clip: 1,750,000kg greasy

Cattle: 3,433

Horses: 494

Farm dogs: 383



Improved wool quality

was sent by UK farmers, with their progeny still traceable today.

In the 1970's over 90% of the farmland was owned by absentee landlords, but following implementation of the Shackleton report recommendation of compulsory subdivision, this has changed to 95% owned and farmed by those living in the Islands. Overseen by the Department of Agriculture's research centre and following Government economic policy measures, this has reversed decades of underinvestment and led to improvements in animal genetics and pasture management. A National Sheep Stud Flock and Beef Herd have been created to improve both the quality of sheep wool and meat quality. Livestock

breeding programme has sped up the quality improvement in wool and meat qualities. A similar cattle genetic programme is replacing traditional dairy breeds with Hereford and Angus to improve beef quality. Livestock

are processed through the Islands' EU approved abattoir, which offers improved processing and revenue opportunities to supply quality meat for both the domestic and export market.



Credit: Jeremy Richards
Sheep and Gentoo penguins on Bleaker Island

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of our economy

- It is the second largest employment sector and the main driver behind the maintenance and development of infrastructure and services throughout the rural Camp areas.
- Until the establishment of the fishery in 1986, wool had been the main export of the Falkland Islands. Nevertheless, sheep and wool production remain the backbone of rural economic activities, and with the stabilization of the world wool market, and local funding to improve genetics, the industry has made an impressive comeback.
- The sector is currently very buoyant, with sustained high wool prices resulting in a net annual income of £8 million for our farmers. The value of the Falkland Islands wool clip has increased by around 11% over the last six years.
- The Department of Agriculture has established links with partner organisations and businesses around the world, in order to ensure we remain at the forefront of agricultural innovation. In the past year they have taken part in agricultural expositions in Montevideo and Venice, and have welcomed professional delegations from both Chile and Uruguay in order to further foster international relationships.
- There are opportunities for farm workers, or establishing new dairy or horticultural enterprises in the Islands. Globally, there is increasing demand for quality produce with environmental provenance, and the Falkland Islands are well-placed as a pristine, pollution-free environment, with pure South Atlantic air and water, complimented by de facto organic and extensive production methods. The challenges to overcome are the logistics of transporting fresh, versus lower value frozen product, and any potential new tariffs on UK agricultural goods, post-Brexit.

The Island Games



The Falkland Islands team and supporters

The 19th NatWest International Island Games were hosted by Gibraltar in July. The Falkland Islands sent a team of 27 athletes who competed in eighty-eight events covering six sports; athletics, badminton, shooting, squash, swimming and table tennis. A large number of national Falkland Islands' and personal records were broken, but pitted against more populated countries, unfortunately no medals were won this time around. However the team spirit and camaraderie seen were excellent and, with many young competitors, lays good foundations for future Island Games and Commonwealth Games teams. The next Island Games are scheduled to take place in Guernsey in 2021.



Falklands Nature

This newly established tour company offers world-class guided nature adventures, specialising in the Falkland Islands and its highly renowned wildlife. The founder and guide, Andy Pollard is a 6th generation Islander who offers visitors the unique wildlife experience only available from a local's inside knowledge and his renowned skills as a wildlife photographer. Trips focus on bird-watching, marine mammals, native plants and nature photography.

www.FalklandsNature.com

The Island Games were founded in 1985 to provide an opportunity for athletes from various smaller islands and Overseas Territories to compete internationally, to share experiences, create links and bring island communities closer together. Participants often share a similar history, heritage and geography, and are invited to share their cultural identity as well as sporting prowess. The first ever games were held with 700 participants from 15 islands, but this has grown to over 2,000 participants, in 14 sports and from 22 islands, including Åland, Alderney, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Gotland, Greenland, Guernsey, Hitra, Isle of Man, Isle of Wight, Jersey, Menorca, Orkney, Saaremaa, Saint Helena, Sark, Shetland, Western Isles and Ynys Mon.

New York Times, 52 places of 2019

American travel journalist Sebastian Modak visited the Islands in July, researching for a New York Times travel feature visiting each of the top 52 destinations of 2019 that they published in January. Despite being encouraged to avoid midwinter, Sebastian spent a week in the Islands in July to create an article entitled

Birdfair

The 2019 British Birdwatching Fair had a distinctly Falkland Islands flavour, with exhibit stands from the Falkland Islands Tourist Board, Falklands Conservation and Falkland Islands Holidays. In addition, there were six Island focussed lectures delivered over the three-day fair, with around 25,000 visitors. Local birder, photographer and guide, Andy Pollard, gave three separate presentations about birds in the Islands. Other talks were by well-known recent visitors to the Falkland Islands; the Urban Birder (David Lindo), Wildlife Photographer and veteran, Craig Jones and Tormod Amundsen from Biotope. The enthusiasm of these speakers was matched by large audiences for their talks. The desire to visit the Islands was tangible and there was a great deal of interest in the second commercial air link.



Falklands' stands at Birdfair

Falkland Islands Gin

Credit: Falkland Islands Gin



Darwin's Gin

The newly produced and widely acclaimed Darwin's Botanicals Gin, by Falkland Distillers, is the fruition of almost six years study, research and experimentation by owner and master distiller, Richard McKee. The initial idea was to produce Falkland Islands whisky, but following six years studying a Post-Graduate Diploma in brewing and distilling at Heriot Watt, University of Edinburgh, Richard was advised to consider initially producing gin instead. Richard has taken the advice to heart and in 2016 he began experimenting with local botanicals, including Teaberries, Scurvy grass and Diddle-dee berries. The collection of these plants is very labour intensive, but ensures the end product is truly hand-crafted with a truly distinctive, unique, Falkland Islands flavour. www.fidistillers.com



Sebastian Modak (R) with David Greene

Bradt travel guide

Tour guide and keen ornithologist Will Wagstaff, has updated his 2001 Falkland Islands guide with a second, 2019 edition. Will has conducted annual tours of the Islands since 1994 and used this practical and visitor experience knowledge to write and update the guide.

www.BradtGuides.com



Stephen Moss



Stephen Moss from BBC Spring Watch

The BAFTA award winning producer of BBC2 Springwatch, Stephen Moss, recently visited the Islands. Despite visiting all seven continents in search of wildlife he told Penguin News; 'I have never been anywhere that the birds are so charismatic and obliging, and the people are so friendly and helpful. I can say one thing for sure - I'll be back.'



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

Falkland Islands Government Office,
Falkland House, 14 Broadway, London SW1H 0BH
Tel: 020 7222 2542
Email: representative@falklands.gov.fk