



FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

2009

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

After the excitements of 2007 some would have thought that 2008 would have been less busy. Happily that has not been the case. It is really heartening to report that the impact of the 25th Anniversary Year, the amount of interest & numbers of visitors to the Chapel, particularly at the Annual service, has not diminished. In fact, there was a larger than usual congregation of over 400 on 15th June 2008. Our Guests of Honour on that occasion were the Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns and his wife and the Chaplain of the Fleet, The Venerable John Green and his wife. We were also delighted that we were joined by 15 of the 45 or so Old Pangbournians who had served in the Falklands War, and who we were unable to accommodate in 2007. You can see the full report of the day on the centrespread with the usual excellent photographs provided by College photographer Don Somner for whose services we are always hugely grateful.

Regular readers will have noticed that we attempt to rotate between the Services when inviting the Guest of Honour and preacher to our annual service. This year we have invited civilian seafarers to represent the Merchant Navy which made such a vital contribution to the campaign of 1982. See page 2 for full details.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the 25th Anniversary Appeal had exceeded all expectations (and



Old Pangbournian Veterans Of 1982 On Annual Service Day Last June:

Back row: L-R Peter Lamb, Will Bowles, Mike Harris, Robert Hamilton, Michael Johnson, Jack Ackroyd. Front Row: Ian Lamb, Ewen Southby Tailleur, Colin Howard, Mrs Scott-Masson, John Plummer, Jeremy Sanders, Hugo White, Michael Layard. In front: Dennis Scott-Masson. Absent: Chris Williams

the £150,000 target) by 'nudging' at the £200,000 mark. I am delighted to report that right at the end of the year we received significant contributions from the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust and the Royal British Legion who together brought the Appeal total to £225,000. Naturally we are indebted to all those who helped us raise such a substantial sum particularly since some of it is to be used for this newsletter and our outreach activities to families and veterans through the Annual Service. You can read more about the Appeal on page 6. Inevitably, though, our fundraising efforts must continue unabated not only to counterbalance current difficult

times but more importantly to ensure that the Chapel is endowed properly to cope with the future. With this in mind we have decided to approach the subject of legacies and I am very grateful to Sara Jones, well known to many of us as a Trustee and also as Chairman of the Falkland Families Association, for giving us her views on page 8.

Three other notable events have occurred in the Chapel since the last newsletter. In March the College hosted another Schools Concert which produced some excellent music provided by seven schools and was in aid of the Children's Trust. In September a moving ceremony took place at

which the 1982 RFA Sir Galahad ships bell was handed over to the Chapel for safe keeping; there is more about this further on, together with other plans the Trustees have for refurbishing the Memorial & Education Rooms. Finally a memorable demonstration of floral art was provided by Glenis Smith, one of our tireless members of the Chapel Flower Guild, two days before Remembrance Sunday. It was a stunning evening and yet another example of the excellence of the work done by the Flower Guild, led by Sadie Clare, which makes sure that there are flowers for all occasions in the Chapel at all times.

There has been one change amongst the Trustees this year. In September we bade farewell to Air Vice Marshal Tony Stables and welcomed Air Vice Marshal Andy Pulford in his place. We thank Tony for his contribution and wish him well with his busy charitable life, particularly as Chairman of the Confederation of British Service & Ex Service Organisations. Andy flew helicopters with a Naval Air Squadron in 1982 and we wish him good fortune in combining his job in the MOD with Trusteeship.

Finally we very much look forward to seeing you – families, veterans, serving personnel, reunion groups – on Sunday 14 June, Falklands Liberation Day, for our annual service. It would be good to see more than 400 again.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel

Friday March 6th 7-9pm:
Charity Schools Concert in aid
of the Children's Trust
Tickets from Susie Belcher
01189 842101

Sunday June 14th:
Annual Service of Remembrance
& Thanksgiving at **12.00hrs**
followed by refreshments in
Drake Hall.

Falkland Families Association

Saturday April 25th:
Reunion & Service at
Wellington Barracks

Saturday June 6th:
Service at St Paul's Cathedral
Details on both occasions from
FFA Secretary Cynthia
Middlewick (see page 3)

A VERITABLE FLORAL FEAST!



Penny Billyeald, a long standing 'Friend' of the chapel wins a floral prize.



*We Remember Them...
The memorial display.*



The Naked Altar - unusually without altar cloths

On Friday November 7th floral art expert, Glenis Smith delighted a 400 strong Chapel audience with an enthralling demonstration of floral art on the theme of 'We are sailing...' Glenis, a longstanding member of the Chapel Flower Guild, is an award winning NAFAS Area Demonstrator & Chairman of the Bucks, Berks & Oxfordshire areas. Her talk as she created each floral treat was both inspiring & amusing. Clever use of frosty greys & greens for foliage – rosemarinus, senecio, palm fronds, ferns, fatsia, cupressus & pinus conifer, monstera, laurel, steel grass and bergenia leaves- created a truly marine impression and these were then embellished with a profusion of floral jewels of strelizia, cymbidium & Singapore orchids, anthurium, amaryllis and roses. Each display evolved, beautifully constructed and explained, in front of our eyes & included a Great White Whale, three Albatrosses, Sir Rex Hunt's magnificent helmet, and a hugely poignant Memorial arrangement with poppy petals strewn at its base especially for the Remembrance Sunday Service. An unusual raffle with a plethora of floral display prizes to take home was very well subscribed and a total of £1,750 was raised for the Memorial Chapel. The floral masterclass was preceded by several individual musical recitals by most proficient Pangbourne students and altogether it was a memorable & enjoyable evening. At the conclusion Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders, Chapel Trust Chairman, thanked Glenis and her helpers-Sadie Clare, Chairman of the Chapel Flower Guild, and Sue Hollebhone for their energy, creativity & generosity in providing such enjoyment and for the part they all play in keeping the Chapel full of flowers throughout the year.



Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders & Glenis Smith celebrate a wonderful evening.



Sir Rex Hunt's Hat! In all it's glory.



One of three - albatrosses - so symbolic of the chapel.



The Great White Whale - a floral display of distinction.

ANNUAL SERVICE 2009 IS ON LIBERATION DAY!

Please join us on Sunday June 14th for our special annual Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne. The Service begins at 12.00 hrs and, as usual, will be followed by a buffet and refreshments in Drake Hall. Please ensure that you return the enclosed

reply slip if you intend to come so that we can provide enough food for you. No tickets will be issued. This year the Guests of Honour representative of the Merchant Navy will be the last captain of the QE2, Captain Ian McNaught, and the Reverend Canon Bill Christianson, a Mission to

Seafarers Chaplain at Gravesend in 1982 & now its Secretary General. The Trustees would like to hear from any members of families would like to attend but who have been unable due to hardship or inability to travel distances unaccompanied. In special circumstances it may be possible for the Trustees to

give a measure of assistance to those who have been regularly unable to attend as long as funds are available for this purpose. In this case a letter of application should be sent via the Secretary before the end of April and will be treated with the utmost confidence.

SCHOOLS PERFORM WITH MUSICAL GUSTO!

In March the third annual Schools Concerts event which raised £5000 for the Childrens' Trust was attended by 370 pupils from eight schools each of whom gave a magnificent performance. Chairman of the Childrens' Trust, Sir Brian Hill, said of the event " The concert was an outstanding success and the attendant schools provided a programme of the highest quality. In the final item, 'I was glad' by Parry, there were 370 children singing in the choir. The chapel was overflowing – a memorable evening! " Headmaster Thomas Garnier applauded the enthusiasm of so many youngsters and said "It was a huge logistical exercise, with so many performers to be rehearsed, fed and marshalled but the home team did us proud."

Well done Pangbourne!



Sir Brian Hill addresses the audience flanked by the young performers.

FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL ASSOCIATIONS & CONTACTS

Falkland Families Association (FFA)

Chairman: Mrs Sara Jones CBE

Secretary: Mrs Cynthia Middlewick, 20 Newlands Close, Keymer, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8BQ

SAMA '82

President: Major General Malcolm Hunt CBE Chairman Tony Davies MBE Secretary: Denzil Connick

SAMA'82, PO Box 82, Blackwood, NP12 OYE. Tel: 01495 227577 or email: densama@aol.com

SAMA'82 AGM: 28th/29th March. Sat. 29th March at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, London.

Merchant Navy Association (MNA)

Capt. John Sail MNI,

C/O Prelude Day Nursery, Ensign House, Osbournby, Sleaford, NG34 0DG

01529 455734 email: Mna4@sail-mail.net

National secretary Tim Brant - 01472 851130

www.mna.org.uk

GIFT AID HAS CHANGED!

During the year we reclaimed over £10,000 in Gift Aid which, as many of our readers will know, was reduced to 25% in the £ after April 5th 2008. This means that where previously we were able to claim 28p in the £, it is now reduced to 25p per £. Having said that it is still worth gift aiding your donations!

INAUGURAL HOSPITAL SHIP REUNION 1982-2008



On April 20th 2008 the first Hospital Ship Uganda Reunion was held on board The P&O Cruise Liner Aurora in Southampton. More than 100 personnel from The Hospital Ship attended with their partners, the event being unique in that former patients were included for the first time at such an occasion. QARNNS nursing colleagues, Royal Naval Doctors and Royal Marine Stretcher-bearers all united with former P&O shipmates for a memorable weekend based in a nearby hotel.

Details of next year's event planned for April 18th 2009 are available on SAMA82 website www.sama82.org or from Organiser Nicci Pugh n_pugh@btinternet.com

Nicci Pugh is currently working on a book to be published next year on the work of The Hospital Ship Uganda in 1982, with contributions from many of those treated & cared for on board at the time.



Piper Keith Burton RM entertaining guests at lunch



Veteran Mark Waller (HMS Canberra) and Susan Hughes



The family of Private Mark Dodsworth 3 Para



The family of Harrier pilot Lt. Cdr Gordon Batt DSC RN 800 Sq. FAA HMS Hermes



The family of Brian Marsden, Naval Airman RN, HMS Hermes



Headmaster Thomas Garnier with Reverend David Cooper & The Venerable John Green



The faithful Standard Bearers come every year & are much appreciated

ANOTHER SERVICE TO REMEMBER

Anyone who may have thought that the 2008 Annual Service of Remembrance would be an anticlimax after the huge impact of the 25th Anniversary would be wrong. Hundreds of bereaved family members, friends, veterans and serving personnel gathered together on Sunday June 15th together with 15 Old Pangbournians who had served in the 1982 and special guests Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Sir Adrian and Lady Johns and Chaplain of the Fleet, The Venerable John & Mrs Green. Noting the popularity of the previous year's Piper, the Trustees were delighted to welcome, for his first visit, Royal Marine Piper, Keith Burton, a veteran of 1982, who entranced the congregation with his poignant rendition of the Lament following the Act of Remembrance and the Last Post. He later entertained guests by playing his bagpipes in Drake Hall during lunch which was greatly enjoyed by all present. The excellent plated lunch provided by the College caterers was modelled, by popular demand, on 25th Anniversary fare and served enthusiastically by Pangbourne students who had volunteered their services in typically generous spirit. In his address to those present, Chapel Trust Chairman, Jeremy Sanders, paid tribute to all of them and welcomed the fifteen OP's who had played a part in the Falklands, a good proportion of the 45 who had been involved. He also applauded the excellence of the Choir & their Director who, together the Band of the Coldstream Guards, provided music of the highest quality during the Service. The presence of The Second Sea Lord was, he said, of particular relevance since he had helped the Trustees to raise almost £100,000 for the 25th Anniversary Appeal. In all it was another memorable day in the life of the Memorial Chapel.



Pamela Roberts' magnificent tapestry was displayed in the Chapel foyer



Loyal supporters from HMS Aldenham have been to every Annual Service in their numbers



The family of Marine Gordon Macpherson, 45 Commando RM



L-R Lady Johns, Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns, Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders & Mrs Jane Sanders



Brigadier & Mrs Christopher Burson RA



L-R Mr & Mrs Bob Norbury & Mr & Mrs Barry Norman- 2 Para in 1982



The Band of the Coldstream Guards



Forefront: Captain Dennis Scott-Masson with his wife (top left) & Captain Martin & Denise Reed



Jackie Moore & John Williams remembering Gdsm. David Williams 1st Batt. Welsh Guards

FUNDRAISING

SURPRISE BOOST FOR 25TH APPEAL

There was more good news for the 25th Anniversary Appeal which ran throughout 2007 after going to press with the last issue of this newsletter; significant donations received brought the total to over £225,000 including a very welcome £25,000 from the Royal British Legion spread over 5 years and to include help with the cost our Annual Service and this newsletter – both important outreach support projects. Furthermore, we received £10,000 from the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust to help with the maintenance of the Chapel & pastoral care. In September representatives from the RNBT visited the Chapel and were given the ‘grand tour’ after meeting several of the Trustees. Captain Chris Craig’s (HMS Alacrity’s CO in ’82) ‘Bag of Gold’ grew to £4607 – a wonderful effort from him & all his supporters- and quite a few Trusts to whom we had made applications made worthwhile contributions – all very gratefully received by the Trustees who are now, in this inclement climate, working hard to protect the Chapel’s investments. The Chairman & Trustees are indebted to all of you who make and have made contributions to the welfare & activities of the Chapel which means so much to everyone involved.



L-R Trustee Brigadier Jeff Mason, Angela Perry, Commander Stephen Farrington (RNBT CEO), Mr John Thompson (RNBT Vice President), Trustee Rear Admiral Richard Melly, Trust Chairman Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders, Trustee Mrs Sara Jones, Thomas Garnier (Headmaster Pangbourne College), Commodore Peter Swan (RNBT Chairman) & Trustee Ron Sidell



During a visit to the Chapel in September, RNBT Chairman, Commodore Peter Swan discusses the Memorial Room with RNBT Vice President John Thompson & Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS OF THE CHAPEL

At all times – and particularly credit crunch 2009- the Chapel Friends are most important and much appreciated people. In response to our last appeal we now have over 190 Friends who have kindly been prepared to commit to regular giving either on an annual, quarterly or monthly basis at a minimum of £25 per year. Their collective donations (with gift aid) account for a regular £10,000 per annum. The Trustees send their heartfelt thanks to all Chapel Friends – past and present- for their invaluable support of the Chapel.

THE 10K LONDON RUN

Over the past three years we have had an opportunity to raise money through the 10K London Run and several energetic runners have raised £5,500 for the Chapel by taking part in this shorter than usual event for which the Trustees are hugely grateful. Amongst the runners have been Chris Cash, Lucy Hudson, Mark Beard, Ryan Childs, Paul Hailwood, Robert Thompson, Mike Hopwood, Spencer & Eloise Grout. The Trustees would like to thank all the runners for their commitment to raising money for the Chapel and wish them well in their future exploits.



Veteran of '82, Chris Cash, has run in the 10K London Run for the Chapel for the past two years and raised over £2,000



Eloise and Spencer Grout after their 10K London Run for the Chapel with Trustee Commodore David Squire (centre) who travelled from Lancashire to welcome them back!

Thanks to all those who have supported FIMCT in the past year

MEMORIAL ROOM WILL BE REFURBISHED

The Memorial Room within the Chapel is to be refurbished. The aim is to complete the work by the June Service. Trustees have unusually accepted several gifts of memorabilia which are highly relevant to the Falklands War, and will be incorporated into the Memorial Room. A model collection of each ship which set sail for the South Atlantic in 1982 –carefully crafted & donated by Brigadier Robin McGarel-Groves- will be housed for display in a specially designed cabinet. A collection of prints donated by Falklands photographer, Norman Clarke, and recently the subject of an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum form a further facet of the refurbishment plan. The original Ensign from HMS Glamorgan, retrieved after the War by Commander Ian Inskip who was Glamorgan's navigator, will be in a framed display. A further significant item to be incorporated is the RFA Sir Galahad Ship's Bell which was retrieved from the foc'sle by the tug which towed her out to sea in 1982 to be sunk as a War Grave. After its return to the UK the Ship's Bell was passed to the South Shields Marine & Technical College where engineering cadets manufactured its stand . The latter was presented to the Trustees last September when a group of RFA veterans attended the Chapel for a reunion service conducted by the Chaplain, Reverend Brian Cunningham after which they watched a flypast of a Gazelle helicopter by pilot Captain Chris Gill of 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron in 1982. The Service included the reception and dedication of the Ship's Bell and the Last Post, Silence & Reveille. The RFA veterans visit was organised by Captain John Hood and Captain Philip Roberts, who commanded RFA Sir Galahad in 1982. The funding for the Memorial Room refurbishment has been kindly provided by the Honorable Company of Master Mariners & the Falklands '82 Trust.



Captain Philip Roberts RFA presents the magnificent RFA Sir Galahad Ship's Bell to Trust Chairman Jeremy Sanders



RFA veterans & Chapel Trust representatives celebrate the presentation of the RFA Sir Galahad Ship's Bell to its final resting place within the Memorial Chapel

CONTACT FIMCT

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to the Trustees
Falkland Islands Memorial
Chapel Trust
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Banbury, Oxon OX15 6EZ
Tel: 01295 738123
Email: angelaEAP@aol.com



Captain Chris Gill pilots the helicopter Gazelle which is now based at Nether Avon

NEWSLETTER DATABASE

After an extensive re-vamp of the Chapel newsletter database we would be grateful if you would let us know if you wish your details to be removed or if they are incorrect or duplicated. We mail to over 2,000 supporters at an approximate cost of £1.60 each. If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email please let us know or you can download it from the Chapel web-site. We are hugely grateful to the Royal British Legion who have given us an annual donation towards the newsletter which is an important part of our outreach to families, veterans and serving personnel.



Navigator Captain Ian Inskip (centre) with the retrieved HMS Glamorgan Ensign

MAKING A LEGACY TO PRESERVE THEIR MEMORIES...

None of us really wants to think about dying but life has a way of dealing out the unexpected and so many of us share a common bond of losing someone dear to us. It is so easy to put the task of making our own will 'on the back burner' but , by doing this, we can cause great difficulties for our families. I often contemplate future generations and their heritage and, as a Trustee of the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, I am concerned to ensure that the memory of my husband and all those who died during the Falklands conflict is preserved for generations to come in this very special Chapel.

You may be surprised to learn that legacies now form an increasingly important source of income for charities. They may range from a few hundred pounds perhaps, the residue of an estate once the main provisions of a will have been fulfilled, to over £1 million. Large or small, however, all play a vital role in supporting the future activities of the charity in question.

When planning your Will then, please join me in remembering the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne. By so doing you will be helping to give future generations the gift of a place where they can properly remember those who gave their lives in the South Atlantic in 1982.



By Mrs Sara Jones CBE

BOOK REVIEW

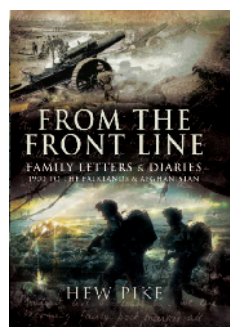


by Robin Brodhurst,
Head of History, Pangbourne College

This is a remarkable book. For well over 100 years the Pike family has been serving in the British Army, and for most of that time they have been writing home to their families and keeping diaries. This book, edited by Sir Hew, shows the raw emotions at every level of both the soldiers and their families. Indeed, many of the most moving letters are from the wives to their husbands at war. Central to the book is the diary and notes that the editor kept during the Falklands War when he commanded 3 Para in their amazing "yomp" across East Falklands and their assault on Mount Longdon. It is a remarkably personal testament as he betrays the fears and worries of a Commanding Officer, and yet also the certainties that his men will be able to carry out

their allotted tasks. As always the comradeship of battle is the overwhelming impression of such a book, and it is to be seen in the accounts from the editor's father in World War II and Korea, as well as from predecessors in World War I and before, and also his son commanding a Parachute Regiment company in Afghanistan recently. I suspect that every reader who has been a soldier will empathise with the young

FROM THE FRONT LINE Family letters and Diaries, 1900 to the Falklands and Afghanistan Pen & Sword - £19.99 *Hew Pike*



subaltern in the Radfan in 1964 and his first combat patrol under the eagle eye of his Commanding Officer, and recognize the same paternal interest he takes when he is that same Commanding Officer sending out patrols against the Argentinians some twenty years later. He agonises over each and every death, and we read about Sergeant Ian McKay's heroics. There is hardly a harsh word about any brother officer,

compared to his great uncle's letters from 1914, excoriating a particularly useless R.A. colonel. As a record of what commanding a battalion is like in action this cannot be beaten, and no library of books on the Falklands conflict should be without it. His epilogue contains a moving assessment of the contract between soldier and society and the place of the politicians in letting down our army today. He quotes Kipling about his son Jack, killed at Loos in 1915, "He did not shame his kind." That can truly be said of the Pike family. They represent the very best qualities of our Society in the way that they have served our country, and continue to do so, on the battlefields where our army has deployed. This volume is a remarkable tribute to that family.