



# FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

2013



## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

As you can imagine the 30th Anniversary year was hugely busy with commemorative events taking place throughout the UK and 'at home' in the Memorial Chapel. In the Autumn Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders handed over the mantle of Chairman to me and it is now my privilege, along with the other Trustees, to steer the Chapel through the next years. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Jeremy who has guided the Chapel since 2006 through two significant Anniversaries – the 25th and the 30th. His commitment to the Trust was immense and I shall do my very best to live up to his example.

Our annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on Sunday 17th June was testament to our main objective that we must ensure that all who were lost in 1982 should be properly remembered forever. The Trustees highest priority is also to

ensure that the Chapel provides support and succour to the families and friends of the fallen as well as to as many veterans of the conflict who wish to visit.

On June 17th with the help of an extended tented nave we were able to accommodate over 850 guests for the Service and buffet afterwards. We were delighted to welcome the Bishop to the Forces The Right Reverend Stephen Venner as our Preacher and it was marvellous to see so many families, veterans and veteran reunion groups amongst our expanded congregation. Thanks to our ongoing work and that of the Falklands Families Association in helping families to apply for Elizabeth Cross Medals Her Majesty's Representative the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mrs Mary Bayliss, was able to present another seven Next of Kin with their medals and scrolls. You can read a full report of these awards inside. As usual the Pangbourne team, under the watchful eye of Headmaster Thomas Garnier, excelled themselves coping extremely well with all the extra arrangements and facilities. We think that our expanded congregation represented one of the largest ever gatherings to be 'fed and watered' at the College. We should also applaud

the excellence of the Chapel Flower Guild ladies who year on year provide us with beautiful floral arrangements and tributes.

You can also read about the dedication of the SAMA Falklands Memorial which took place at the National Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire in May. By all accounts it was another most memorable 30th Anniversary event which marked the onset of our recovery of the Falkland Islands and was attended by several of our Trustees.

During the year we have also said goodbye to Trustee Commodore David Squire who has been with us over twelve years as representative of the Merchant Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary and who was recently awarded the prestigious Merchant Navy Medal for services to the Nautical Institute and Trinity House Merchant Navy Cadet Scholarship Scheme. In his place we welcomed Captain Martin Reed RD\* a former Chairman of SAMA'82 and Chief Officer of ss Canberra which played a vital part as a troop and hospital ship in 1982.

We shall be having our Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on

Sunday June 16th at 12.00hrs and, as always, look forward to welcoming more and more families and veterans to our congregation.

**Major General Jeff Mason**  
*Chairman of the Trustees*

## Dates For Your Diary

### Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel

**Sunday June 16th**  
Service of Remembrance &  
Thanksgiving at 12.00hrs  
followed by refreshments  
in Drake Hall

For booking and details:  
Angela Perry 01295 738123 or  
angelaEAP@aol.com

### Falkland Families Association

**Saturday April 27th**  
Annual Reunion Service and  
AGM in the Guards Chapel at  
Wellington Barracks

**Saturday June 15th**  
Service at St Paul's Cathedral

Details for both occasions from  
FFA Secretary (see *Contacts* page 2)



## SAMA'82 REMEMBERS THE FALLEN



The Road' sweetly sung by Kathryn Nutbeem (pictured below) in memory of her father Major Roger Nutbeem RAMC.

Other highlights of the day included a plethora of Standard Bearers representing many Associations, a Guard of Honour, music from the Band of the Royal Marines and a flypast by the types of aircraft that took place in Operation Corporate in 1982 led in spectacular fashion by pilot Martin Withers DFC in a Vulcan Bomber.

The memorial was constructed with the help of several organisations and individuals including the Falklands Families Association.

Whilst many Falklands veterans and their families have visited the San Carlos Memorial the majority have not. By creating a similar atmosphere in the NMA, SAMA hopes that veterans and their families will feel it is somewhere in the UK where they can connect with the Falklands and feel at peace.

Sunday May 20th – the day that marked the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands Task Force landing on the Islands – was the day that SAMA's marvellous and inspiring Falklands War Memorial was dedicated at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas. More than 1500 veterans, families and well-wishers beat a path to the Staffordshire Memorial gardens to witness this most memorable and important occasion. The rough, curved Cotswold stone memorial wall, with a rock from the Falkland Islands placed in front of it, was dedicated by veterans Major General Julian Thompson and Commodore Mike Clapp following a moving outdoor Service officiated by Reverend David Cooper and including an exquisite rendition of 'Somewhere Along



## A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Ray Poole, whose son Gareth was lost in the conflict and who is Treasurer of the Falkland Families Association remembers...

I clearly remember the Government sponsored Pilgrimage to the Falklands in April 1983 when approximately 600 relatives of the Servicemen who fell during the conflict travelled South to pay their respects and to see the 'foreign land' that it had all been about. What we encountered during our collective visit proved to be both an extremely moving experience and quite an adventure.

After meeting the Islanders and visiting the various memorials around the Islands our visit culminated in the unveiling and dedication of the San Carlos Memorial - it's magnificence being in stark contrast to the ruggedness and remoteness of the Islands. We forward 30 years to the National Arboretum at Alrewas where, in similar weather conditions, many of those same family members attended the Service and dedication of the SAMA82 Falklands

Memorial. I am sure that in their hearts, as well in mine, the memory of that momentous day in San Carlos was rekindled by the vision of this new monument and it's similarly impressive design.

The two comparable occasions and settings so many years apart will forever be remembered together with the solemnity of the Service, eventually enlightened by the unforgettable flypast of Vulcan XH5558 - what a memory!

Such occasions provide an ideal opportunity to make personal contact with our members and strengthen the bond of the Association and its future.

The day was certainly a great triumph for all those involved and I can speak for all the FFA members in thanking SAMA for an unforgettable day and for this truly important and impressive everlasting memorial to our loved ones.



Ray (centre) with bereaved family members at Pangbourne in June

## ASSOCIATIONS & CONTACTS FALKLAND FAMILIES ASSOCIATION (FFA)

### Falkland Families Association (FFA)

**Chairman:** Mrs Sara Jones CBE

**Secretary:** Cindy Strickland, 12 Lyndon Avenue, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 4QG Tel: 01494 725666

### **FFA Service:**

Saturday 27th April, 11am at the Guards Chapel (*ticket only from Sec*)  
Saturday 15th June, 11am at St. Paul's Cathedral Crypt (*ticket only from Sec*)

### SAMA'82

**President:** Lieutenant General Sir James Dutton KCB CBE

**Chairman:** Mike Bowles MBE

**Secretary:** Mrs Jane Adams,

SAMA'82, Unit 25 Torfaen Business Centre, Panteg Way, New Inn, Pontypool, Gwent NP4 0LS

Tel: 01495 741592 or Email: [secretary@sama82.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sama82.org.uk)

### **SAMA'82 AGM & Reunion:**

Saturday 9th March at the Hallmark Hotel, Derby.  
(Organiser: [paulnolan229@gmail.com](mailto:paulnolan229@gmail.com))

### Merchant Navy Association (MNA)

**National Chairman:** Captain JMR Sail MNM MNI

**National Secretary:** Tim Brant MNM FEI

**Address:** 9 Saxon Way, Caistor, Market Rasen LN7 6SG Tel: 01472 851130

**Email:** [t.brant@virgin.net](mailto:t.brant@virgin.net) **Web:** [www.mna.org.uk](http://www.mna.org.uk)

### **25th/27th May**

Year of the Convoy Commemoration Events, Liverpool

### **3rd September:**

Merchant Navy Day

### **8th September:**

Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service, Tower Hill, London



# 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEDAL PRESENTATIONS



The Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on Sunday June 17th included the presentation of seven Elizabeth Crosses to Next of Kin carried out by Her Majesty The Queen's Representative, Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire The Hon. Mrs Bayliss JP (pictured below in the first two rows).

The presentations took place after the Last Post when Danny Bull and Myra McKinnon were first to receive their medal for Private Gerald Bull 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment. Then followed Katie Gibby daughter of Guardsman Mark Gibby 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, Mrs Susan Giffin widow of Lance Corporal Brett Giffin 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron Royal Marines, Lucene and Bethany Hughes for Mechanic James Hughes Merchant Navy SS Atlantic Conveyor. Mrs Ann Miller, mother of Leading Engineering Mechanic David Miller HMS Fearless, received her medal with daughter Mandy Sills, sisters Angela Dolan and Carol Prescott received theirs for Staff Sergeant James Prescott CGM 49 EOD Squadron Royal Engineers and finally Alan Wallis and Lesley Dimmock for Weapons Engineering Mechanic 2nd Class Barry James Wallis HMS Sheffield.

The Elizabeth Cross was instituted by Her Majesty The Queen as a mark of recognition for those killed in conflict to be awarded to their next of kin. Many families have now received their medals but the Medal Office still have a number not yet applied for. It is up to NOK to apply for their medals and for those unsure of the process help is available. Please contact the Secretary on 01295 738123.



Katie Gibby, Connor Smith and Leah Davies for Gdsm Mark Gibby WG



Mrs Susan Giffin for Lance corporal Brett Giffin 3 Cdo Brigade AS RM



Lucene & Bethany Hughes with Lord Lieutenant The Hon Mrs Bayliss for Mechanic James Hughes MN



Bryan Miller, Ron, Donna & Mandy Sills, and Mrs Ann Miller with The Hon Mrs Bayliss for LEM David Miller



Sisters Angela Dolan and Carol Prescott for Staff Sgt James Prescott CGM



Alan Wallis and Lesley Dimmock for WEM 2 Barry Wallis



Myra McKinnon and family re Pte Gerald Bull 3 Para



## PRAYER FOR THE YEAR BY REVEREND NEIL JEFFERS

As I look back on my first year as Chaplain, it has been a great privilege to be involved in the life of the Falklands community alongside my more regular ministry to Pangbourne College.

Starting off in the 30th anniversary year has been a baptism of fire – the Falkland 30 dinner, complete with the launch of a new beer; the 30th anniversary service of remembrance in June; a reunion service for the HMS Ardent association. It has been an honour to meet many of those for whom the Chapel is a special place, and reading David Hart-Dyke's excellent Four Weeks in May has helped to give me greater insight into what many experienced in 1982.

As we move on from a year which has rightly focused on looking back, the gospel we are reminded of at Christmas is a source of ongoing hope for us all. As the Chapel looks to the future and how we can continue to serve veterans and families in the years ahead, so we all look to what lies ahead of us, often with trepidation and some fear. And into that God speaks hope, a hope we can echo in a prayer for the coming year, based on Psalm 91:

Grant us, O Lord, to dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
To rest in the shadow of the Almighty.  
Grant us to say of you, "You are my refuge and fortress,  
My God, in whom I trust."

Neil can be contacted directly on 0118 9767 449 or by e-mail at [Neil.Jeffers@pangcoll.co.uk](mailto:Neil.Jeffers@pangcoll.co.uk), or by post through the College.



Lucene, Bethany and Rhys Hughes



The Miller Family



Connor Smith



Mrs Susan Giffin with Mandy and Ray Barnes



Alan Wallis and Lesley Dimmock



Danny Bull, Myra and Lucy McKinnon



# ANNUAL SERVICE 2012

## 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & THANKSGIVING

The Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne was host to an unprecedented gathering of 850 for the 30th Anniversary Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving on Sunday June 17th. During the months preceding the Service it became obvious to the Trustees that requests to attend from families and veterans would far exceed the seating capacity of the Memorial Chapel. In such a significant year they were reluctant to turn anyone away so the solution lay in the provision of 250 extra seats in a 'tented nave' extension attached to the front of the building. Large screens and a sound system enabled those within the extension to participate as the Service played out.

The Memorial Chapel, which has a normal capacity of 600, was packed with bereaved family members, veterans and supporters who enjoyed a most moving Service which began with the striking of 'Eight Bells' on the Sir Galahad Ship's Bell by its 1982 Commanding Officer Captain Philip Roberts DSO RFA.

Music was provided by the excellent choir of Pangbourne College accompanied by the Brass Quintet of the Royal Marines and an appropriate address was delivered by the Bishop to the Forces and Falkland Islands, The Right Reverend Stephen Venner. The presentation of Elizabeth Crosses to seven 'Next Of Kin' families by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, The Hon. Mrs Bayliss JP followed the Last Post, Lament, Silence and Reveille. The Lament, as always, was beautifully and hauntingly executed by Piper Keith 'Paddy' Burton who played from the foyer and slowly 'faded away' through the tented nave.

Following the Service the entire congregation attended a delicious buffet luncheon in Drake Hall extended by another marquee and were able to spill out onto the lawn to enjoy a rare opportunity for lunch in the sunshine!

During lunch Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders made his valedictory speech prior to retiring as Chairman in

the autumn. "I think I am right in saying that this is one of the largest and most illustrious gatherings that has ever taken place here and I commend the College team for agreeing to allow us to have unrestricted attendance today".

"We are particularly honoured that in addition to so many family members from all over the UK we are joined today by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mrs Bayliss who represents Her Majesty The Queen, and the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope and Lady Stanhope." He then paid tribute to the enthusiastic participation of all those who had contributed to the day including Chaplain Reverend Neil Jeffers who had embraced his new role unequivocally. "To accommodate 850 of us here today has taken a marathon undertaking from the College Team – led by Headmaster Thomas Garnier and Second Master Gerry Pike – with more than double the normal quota of voluntary student help who willingly carry out their tasks with

enthusiasm and good grace – and the background organisation of Steve Williams and the catering department with bursar Ron Obbard keeping a watchful eye on the purse strings. The choir – led by Director of Music, Jonathan Brown and organist Julian McNamara – have, as always thrilled us all with their impeccable performance. Together with the organisational team they all set such a marvellous example which demonstrates the love and care that they have for our Chapel building and those who wish to visit it on a regular or annual basis. There are so many others to thank – the floral arrangements team of ladies organised by Sadie Clare, the minibs drivers, the ushers, the parkers, the train collectors and everyone involved in making this day run seamlessly. They never cease to surprise!" He concluded.

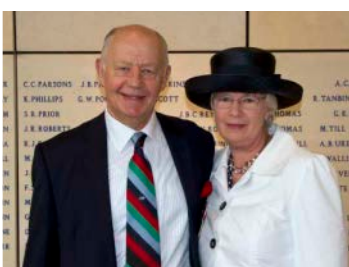
By all accounts it was a truly marvellous day and the weather – which had been dire during the weeks before – was kind to us all!



The Hailwood Family



Sgt Bill Belcher invalided aboard HS Uganda in 1982



Colonel Ivar Hellberg with wife Susie



The Wigleys and Viswalinghams for Malcolm Wigley W/G



Paddy Burton pipes the Lament



The family of Donald Pryce



Major General and Mrs Geoff Field



Howard Pullen, Sukey Cameron and Falkland Islander Dick Sawle



The family of Adrian Wellstead



Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, The Hon Mrs Bayliss and Jeremy Sanders



Headmaster Thomas Garnier with Bishop Venner and Rev. Neil Jeffers



# ANNUAL SERVICE 2012



Rev. and Mrs James Power



Rev. Angus Smith with Lieutenant General Sir Jim and Lady Dutton



The Nutbeam family

## ANNUAL SERVICE 2013: SUNDAY 16TH JUNE

Our theme for this year's Service on Sunday 16th June will celebrate 30 years of the Falkland Families Association which was formed in 1983. As a result of its formation between 1981 and 1988 there were 90 pilgrimages of bereaved families to the Falklands and many long lasting relationships have been forged. As always the Chapel Service begins at 12.00 hrs and will be followed by a buffet and refreshments in Drake Hall. Although there will be **no tickets** this year please let us know if you wish to attend for catering and seating purposes. We look forward to welcoming both families and veterans to the Service.



Jackie Dowling and family remembering Marine Paul Callan



Dan & Linda Bull remembering Private Gerald Bull



Stanley & Evelyn Jones with daughter Tracey Pritchard & granddaughter Eloise remembering Christopher Jones



Kim & Chris Hibberd WG



The Dawson family



Lt.Colonel & Mrs Ros Greenwood and Jane Mellor remembering Captain John Hamilton



Lesley & Peter Wilkin RM who travelled from Australia to be with us



The Linell family remembering Anthony Greenwood 3Para



Captain Michael Barrow CO of HMS Glamorgan in 1982



The Caseys with David Hunn remembering Kevin Casey



Gladys Easton and Shirley Chapman and family



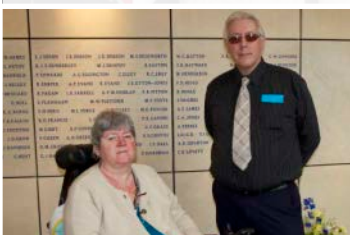
Paul & Lucy Sayce



Tim Gedge CO 809 Sea Harriers



Carol & Stephen Jary



Mr and Mrs Arnold remembering Alastair Leighton

The Trustees would like to hear from any family members or veterans who would like to attend but who are or have been unable due to financial hardship or inability to travel distances unaccompanied. In these special circumstances it may be possible for the Trustees to give a measure of assistance to those who now find themselves unable to attend or 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 and will be treated with the utmost confidence.

### CONTACT FIMCT

Mrs Angela Perry  
Secretary to the Trustees  
Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust  
Wroxton Mill, Wroxton  
Banbury  
Oxon OX15 6EZ  
Tel: 01295 738123  
Email: [angelaEAP@aol.com](mailto:angelaEAP@aol.com)



# HMS ARDENT - ELIZABETH CROSS

## A SPECIAL AUTUMN SERVICE

On Sunday 30th September the Falkland Families Association and the HMS Ardent Association joined forces for a Service in the Chapel for the Presentation of the Elizabeth Cross to Next of Kin of those HMS Ardent crew members killed in action on 21st May 1982. The Service was initiated by FFA Treasurer Ray Poole who had worked closely with the Medal Office in search of likely recipients. The event organised by Chaplain Reverend Neil Jeffers was supported by FFA Chairman Sara Jones, the Falklands Chapel

Trustees and SAMA82, and proved to be a wonderful occasion and a worthy culmination of 30th Anniversary events at Pangbourne.

Following an appropriate Address by the Reverend Jeffers the five Next of Kin received their Elizabeth Cross Medals from HMS Ardent President and Commanding Officer in 1982 Admiral Lord West of Spithead during a moving Service in which Miss Kathryn Nutbeem – daughter of Major Roger Nutbeem RAMC KIA in 1982 – sang the hauntingly

beautiful ‘Someone Waits For Me’ that she had sung earlier in the year at the SAMA Memorial Day. The Prayers led by FFA Chaplain The Reverend Father Nick Gosnell CF(RC) were followed by the hymn ‘Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer’, The FFA Prayer, The National Anthem and The Blessing.

The Next of Kin whose names were announced by Chapel Trustee Commander Andrew Gordon Lennox received their Medals & Scrolls from Lord West

(pictured below) and were Mrs Lesley Hastings for Petty Officer WEM (Radio) Andrew K Palmer, Mrs Sally Storey for Lieutenant Commander Richard W Banfield, Mr Martin Williams for MEM (Mechanical) Gilbert S Williams, Mrs Beverley Zurel for Able Seaman (Sonar) Sean K Hayward and Mrs Dorothy Kirk (Scroll only) for Acting Leading Cook Michael P Foote.

The Service was followed by a buffet lunch in the Mess Hall attended by the entire congregation.



Mrs Dorothy Kirk receiving Scroll for Acting Leading Cook Michael P Foote



Mrs Lesley Hastings for Petty Officer WEM(Radio) Andrew K Palmer



Mrs Lesley Hastings



Mrs Sally Storey



Mr Martyn Williams



Mrs Beverley Zurel and family



Elizabeth Cross recipients with Admiral The Lord West

## Anchorites give £5K to the Chapel

The Falklands Chapel has received £5,000 from the Maritime Society of Anchorites because it was chosen to be the President's Charity in 2012. Member Anchorites meet for a themed dinner eight times a year onboard HQS Wellington, the Livery Hall of the Master Mariners. The dinners follow a relaxed format with a little traditional ceremonial, and include a simple game which allows a contribution to be made to the President's Charity over the year.

The February dinner was attended by former Chapel Chairman & Falklands veteran, Jeremy Sanders (pictured), who spoke about the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands War and thanked President Andrew Gordon Lennox (pictured) and members for generously choosing the Chapel as beneficiary.

The Anchorites Society dates back to World War 1 when the Admiralty formed a group to order all aspects of Merchant shipping: their building, insurance, cargoes, routes, convoys, escorts, ports,

pilotage and manning. This group were obviously experts in their fields, but the wartime experience broadened into all aspects of maritime affairs, and they also became firm friends.

Post WW1 this group founded the Society as a dining club which since has thrived, offering a forum for the discussion of sea affairs generally, from insurance to brokerage, yachts to liners, tramps to major warships, so promoting a closer liaison between all branches of the maritime scene. In 1939, the Club was a natural focus in re-establishing Naval control of Shipping, and social meetings were opened to innumerable foreign officers.

The present membership is about 325 and continues to be drawn from all professions and areas of maritime life, the essential qualification for membership still being that the member must have genuine interest in, or association with, the sea and maritime affairs.



Jeremy Sanders with Anchorites President Andrew Gordon Lennox addressing the Anchorites in May



## FLORAL ART INSPIRES A CROWD

The Chapel nave was filled with aspiring flower arrangers in October when NAFAS demonstrator Bob Harris presented a plethora of floral arrangements on the theme of 'Majesty' – and majestic they were! The evening's performance, organised by Flower Guild Chairman, Sadie Clare, proved to be an inspiration to all present and many happy attendees left with prize floral arrangements won in the raffle.

Bob, a keen gardener and lay preacher, delivered his masterclass in a humorous and spiritual fashion taking the audience through the creation of six floral confections whilst chatting about his life and family. Each arrangement became an art form lovingly and cleverly created with great panache. First came the silver salver – an offertory plate – upon which he laid a base of green twigs, mahonia, laurel and ivy leaves fixed in floral foam and then wove in orange, pink and red anthuria interspersed with pale cream gladioli. The result was magnificent.

Next a tiered stand of greens and whites with trailing ivy, green crysanthemums, carnations and

lizianthus with sprays of white dendrodeum. Pure simplicity! Then an explosion of flowers in autumn colours from tall baskets with stiper gigantis grass and gladioli for height and pink and orange and apricot lilies, gerbera, and Chinese lanterns on a base of mahonia and cotinina.

The fourth display was very 'Van Gogh' on a theme of yellow and green – a horizontal arrangement on top of a black urn with black twigs and variegated eleagnus interspersed with yellow sunflowers, gerbera and roses. Number five had a wreath base with pale pink twigs reaching skywards in a circle, pink gerbera with lizianthus and Sweet Avalon roses arising through the twigs from a pale ivy and beech base; thereafter placed on a 'champagne glass' beaded stand it became a confection of pink – Bob's favourite colour!

The final arrangement was a 'pedestal of peace' with a base of trailing ivy, beech, fatsia interspersed with white delphiniums, lilies and roses – truly magnificent!



Van Gogh

Offertory Plate

Peace

Bob Harris and Sadie Clare

A winning smile!

## The Wives' Fellowship Day At The Chapel



Angela, Cathy Dent and WF Chairman Rosemary Williams



Happy wives, fellowship delegates



Sara Jones CBE

The Chapel was host to a large gathering of members of The Wives Fellowship for their Founders' Day on 7th June 2012. On what proved to be typical English weather, rain and wind, Eileen McCauley, Founders' Day secretary welcomed 250 Wives to the first restyled Founders' Day, wishing all a day of stimulation, spiritual fulfilment and enjoyment, the theme being 'Our Tomorrow'.

The first speaker was Chapel Secretary Angela Perry who recounted the fascinating story of the challenges encountered in bringing the Chapel into being including the difficult yet rewarding journey to raise the £2.3 million required to build the beautiful building. She told of the many obstacles that were overcome all of which are well documented in Anthony Hudson's book 'Just to See His Name'. Following Angela's address the Chaplain Reverend Neil Jeffers led the morning service which brought together the overall theme of 'Our Tomorrow'. In his address Reverend Neil talked of The Wives Fellowship vision of a goal and how tomorrow can affect today dealing with the challenges that arise including those in following Christ. He used the analogy of the Chapel building as a prime example.

Following the service the Wives moved to the Mess Hall to enjoy a delicious lunch, an opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new acquaintances; the hall was alive with chatter! After lunch, back in the Chapel, the second speaker was Chapel Trustee Sara Jones CBE DL. Sara spoke of three organisations in which she became involved as a result of her husband Lt. Col. Herbert 'H' Jones VC OBE's death in 1982 saying that she had met many fascinating people and how past events can form our future; these being the Falklands Families Association, the Poppy Factory as President and the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas. Following Sara Jones address there was a short period of reflection and prayer encompassing life, time and peace. Wives Fellowship organist Robin Coles closed the session with a moving piece of music and by all accounts it had been a most fulfilling and uplifting day.

## BOOK REVIEW

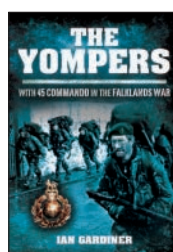


by Robin Brodhurst  
Chapel Librarian

One aphorism kept coming back to me as I read this excellent book. It comes from the golfer Gary Player who was accused of being just lucky. He replied "It's amazing; the more I practice the luckier I get." The message that comes through loud and clear from Ian Gardiner's book is that those who took part in the Falklands War were utterly professional in their work. They prepared for war and when they were ordered to go to war they did so in a way that attempted to eliminate as many mistakes as possible.

Major Ian Gardiner commanded X-Ray Company in 45 Commando Royal Marines during the Falklands campaign. His book is the first volume to be written by a company commander and as such it gives a most interesting viewpoint. It's not quite from the worm's eye, but from a couple of levels higher. Like any good officer he cares deeply for his men, and we gradually get to know them, particularly his three platoon commanders. 45 Commando probably marched (or yomped) further than any other unit during the war, and every blister and ache

is felt by the reader as they forced their way across the island to capture Two Sisters in a major battle. But 45 Commando was part of a larger family and it is interesting to see how 3 Commando Brigade all knew each other, and how their support units integrated. Similarly at every turn the author runs into others with whom he had served. For example the NGS for the attack on Two Sisters came from HMS Glamorgan, commanded by Captain Mike Barrow, with whom Gardiner had served on HMS Diomedé. The armed forces are indeed a small world, and this means that very quickly you learn whom you can trust.



The book is filled with fascinating details. How many outside the campaign, know that only one officer had the foresight to take money with him? That he was 45 Commando's paymaster helped, and that he took £250,000 in cash with him helped even more and meant that he became the task force's paymaster. The reader will also discover why 45 Commando never ran out of cigarettes, even though the author, a purely social smoker before 1982, had become a twenty-a-day man by the end of the campaign. Such details make this an essential book for those who weren't there and want to know what it was like. The loneliness of

command, even at this low level is emphasised, as he agonises over the planning of his company's assault on Two Sisters, hoping that he has got it right and not left anything out. He hadn't, and it went, if not perfectly, then as near to perfect as any plan can do in wartime. As he reminds us more than once "No plan survives first contact with the enemy."

Gardiner is critical of Northwood trying to micro-manage the campaign from so far away, without knowing the situation on the ground, comparing their style unfavourably to 3 Commando Brigade's "mission command". Every NCO (and probably every marine) knew exactly what they were trying to do and could step up a level of command if needed. Thus orders were rarely necessary in the heat of battle. He is equally critical of 5 Brigade and the Army command system, believing that they were rarely in a proper state to fight. He is not critical of the individual men or officers, praising the Scots Guards for their attack on Tumbledown, but he is critical of the Brigade HQ, their equipment, and their training.

## Obituary: Sir Rex Hunt

Sir Rex Hunt, who died last year on Remembrance Sunday aged 86, enjoyed a varied life with the Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service (HMOCS), a career that peaked in "that summer" of 1982. There are those who say that if it had not been for him the Foreign Office would not have fought the war...

Born in Redcar and proud to be a Geordie, Sir Rex had a love of horseracing and rugby (he proved a fine and authoritative referee) and was educated at Coatham School and St. Peter's College, Oxford. His career with HMOCS began in 1951 – the same year that he married his wife Mavis - and took him to several postings throughout the East before his appointment to the Falkland Islands as Governor and Commander-in-Chief in the late 70's.

He had been commissioned as a pilot in 1944, and the Falklands posting offered both promotion and a chance for him to resume his beloved hobby of flying (the job came with its own Cessna aircraft). He loved it from the start. He drove around Stanley in his official car, a red London taxi, and quickly became involved in the

numerous activities – horseracing festivals, rugby football, sheepdog trials, and the like to gather in the small farm communities of the Falklands beyond the capital. At the end of the war he even found time to re-open the rugby pitch, though nobody liked scoring in the corner where mines lay as yet undetected.

Sir Rex championed the Falklands cause at every opportunity and in retirement, he chaired the Falkland Islands Association until 2005. As



president of the Falkland Islands Trust for many years he remained a sturdy advocate of the islanders' cause on the after-dinner lecture circuit.

At the conclusion of the 100 day war and the regaining of British Sovereignty in June 1982 the finale was particularly sweet. Sir Rex diplomatically ensured that the two military leaders- victor and vanquished- never met. While escorting General Menendez to the airport, he left Admiral Sir John 'Sandy' Woodward alone in his study in Full Battle Dress allowing the Admiral to contemplate a piece of dark chocolate resting on the table..... and to wonder at the tooth marks so clearly visible. Were they perhaps the final farewell of his departing opponent?

Sir Rex was unable to attend the 25th Annual Memorial Service at the Falkland Islands Chapel in 2007 because he was enjoying what proved to be his final visit to the Falkland Islands but he had visited the Chapel at Pangbourne in an official capacity in the past.

He is survived by his widow Mavis and his children, Antony and Diana.

Anthony Hudson MA MBE

## Thank You!

The Chapel Trustees would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Chapel Fund this year – our Friends are hugely valued and now contribute over £10,000 on a regular basis; we have had more than six 'In Memory' Seat Sponsors in past months bringing the all time total to over £150,000; last year's forecourt project is all but paid for; financial support from organisations such as the RBL and Seafarers UK is key to our ongoing ministry and the generosity of Chapel visitors and correspondents is overwhelming. Thank you all!