



FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

2016



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

This year has certainly been a busy one at the Chapel. It began on a sad note when in March we lost our founder member and visionary Anthony Hudson MBE after a long battle with cancer. Many of you will know that he was a key member of the committee which established the Chapel at the College and he will be sorely missed. Appropriately the Chapel was host both to his funeral in March and a memorable Memorial Service attended by over 800 attendees in April. His popularity was massive and, as always, the College team coped exceptionally well with impeccable arrangements. (Tribute p.3).

At the end of March the South Atlantic Medal Association (SAMA) held their AGM weekend Reunion Service in the Chapel. For many of their members it was a first visit and proved to be a most popular occasion. The day was marked by the presentation of an Elizabeth Cross to Mrs Sandy Dawson, widow of Kevin Williams, a cook on board HMS Sheffield in 1982, by our new Lord Lieutenant Mr James Puxley on his first visit to the Chapel. (Report p.2 & see Sandy's 'memoir' on p.6)

On 14th June the Annual Service was another huge occasion. We were almost embarrassed by running out of space. Six hundred and twenty family members and veterans booked to attend and we know of several gate-crashers who were too late to book and came anyway! They were, of course, most welcome and that, I feel, is the true essence of this Chapel and it was wonderful to welcome new faces as well as all our regulars. Among new faces welcomed were a contingent from HMS Fearless and Intrepid (on which I served) and a group of 9 Para Sqd RE veterans. This too was a second opportunity for Lord Lieutenant, Mr Puxley, to present an Elizabeth Cross to Mrs Catherine Lintell, daughter of Private Anthony Greenwood, who was accompanied by eight family members (see page 5).

The Annual Service presented the new Director of Music, Roy Raby, with an ideal opportunity to demonstrate his extensive musical talent, and that of the College's marvellous Choirs, to so many of us and, as always, for the Headmaster's excellent organisational team again to excel. We are indebted to them all.

The Annual Service was a most poignant occasion for members of the Falkland Families Association (FFA) which officially closed its doors that day. At lunch in Drake Hall FFA Chairman and Chapel Trustee Sara Jones presented me with a gift for the Chapel of £23,400. Following the association's closure we have pledged to hold this money for the benefit of FFA members. The FFA have also given us a bench which is appropriately located by the Cairn. We welcome all former FFA members to the Chapel family and, of course, all members of families bereaved in 1982 who may not have been members.

This year our Annual Service is on Sunday 12th June 2016 and I am very pleased that The Right Reverend Nigel Stock, Bishop at Lambeth, Bishop to the Forces and Bishop for the Falkland Islands will be delivering the Address. He will be accompanied by his wife, Carolyne.

We look forward to seeing you all again but do book in with Angela so that we can ensure there is enough food and refreshment. We would like to encourage young guests too so that they can be made aware of the

sacrifices made by their forbears and carry the torch of remembrance for the future. As usual the Service begins at 12.00 followed by lunch at 13.15. Please do join us if you can.

Major General Jeff Mason
Chairman of the Trustees

Thank You...

The Trustees and I would like to thank all of you who have supported the Chapel whether you are a Friend and give regularly, or a 'one-off' donor, an association or reunion group, an organisation or a benefactor – all the gifts given to us are treasured and used carefully to maintain the Chapel in good order for all its visitors or to afford access to the Chapel to those families and veterans who need it. Thank you for helping us to fulfil our pledge to those who made it possible for all of us.

FAMILIES GATHER TO SAY GOODBYE

On Saturday 18th April a Service was held to commemorate the final reunion of the Falklands Families Association and General Meeting at the Guard's Chapel at Wellington Barracks in London. It was a poignant but memorable occasion and the sun shone on this glorious day. The Band of the Honourable Artillery Company played for the Guards' Chapel Choir; lessons were read by Mrs Angela Perry MBE and Brigadier Rupert Jones CBE with a moving Address by Reverend Dr Richard Hines, former Rector of Christ Church Cathedral, Stanley.

Speaking about 'courage being found in unlikely places' Revd Dr Hines said "long before I went to live in the Falkland Islands I knew for certain that, there of all places, I would find many signs of bravery and fortitude, past and present. And so it was."

"Indeed, I learned a great deal during my recent seven years as Anglican Rector in the Islands about the remarkable courage displayed back in 1982 by people who experienced the Argentine invasion of the Islands and by all kinds of people involved with their subsequent liberation. I also learned much about the courage that has been displayed since 1982, and that continues to this day." And later in his dialogue when recalling significant commemorations he said "Whenever such commemorations were held, many more dear people were invariably called to mind, people like yourselves, gathered here this

morning, and all those tragically bereaved of a loved one and whose lives since then have been forever changed. I know from many conversations and written messages that people like you have also displayed immense and sustained courage over the years as you adjusted to new and painful realities – and I know what a hugely significant role the Falklands' Families Association has played since 1983 in offering support and friendship, and in sustaining that needed courage year by year."

After the Laying of the Tributes at the Falkland Memorial the congregation repaired for a reception and lunch in the WO's and Sergeants' Mess. Prior to lunch Sara Jones CBE paid tribute to all those who have helped or been involved with the FFA over the years and spoke to the families about the Association's closure:

"I think I can safely say this is an emotional occasion for those of us who have been involved with the FFA for some years, many since its inception in 1983 on the Cunard Countess. It is sad that this is our last Service and Reunion but I am sure we have made the right decision for all the reasons that we have rehearsed before and because we have our wonderful Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne where we will continue to meet. Friends are too precious to lose. The Association has, I believe, been a joy and support to all of us who lost someone in 1982."

A copy of Revd Dr Richard Hines' full Address is available from The Secretary, Angela Perry, on request.



L - R Robbie Dent, Sara Jones CBE, Dr Cathy Dent, Stuart Leeming and Father Nick Gosnell



L-R Maj Gen Sir Iain Mackay-Dick, Lt Gen Sir James Dutton, Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike and Lady Dutton

SAMA COMES TO THE CHAPEL

Many of the veterans attending the SAMA AGM and Reunion weekend at the Hilton in Swindon also attended their own Service of Remembrance and Reflection at the Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne on Sunday 29th March. SAMA organiser Paul Nolan had generously invited Major General Jeff Mason and his wife Lucy and Angela Perry and her husband Jim to enjoy their Gala Dinner held at the hotel the evening before. During the evening they met Sandy Dawson and her husband Mike who were to receive the Elizabeth Cross at the Chapel the next day. In all it was an evening of reunion and conviviality with a surprise entertainment featuring the popular Military Wives Choir followed by 70s Tribute Band 'Soul in Motion' which got everyone dancing. During dinner SAMA Chairman Gordon Mather invited Jeff Mason to speak and he reinforced his invitation to all SAMA members

to attend the Chapel whenever they wished to remember their comrades lost in 1982.

The Service at the Chapel the following morning was, as always, a memorable occasion orchestrated by Chaplain Reverend Neil Jeffers who also gave the address. Special guests included the new Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire Mr James Puxley and his wife Deborah. Nicci Pugh, Senior Nursing Officer on board HS Uganda in 1982, read the lesson and later led prayers with Reverend David Cooper a Chapel Trustee and SAMA Chaplain. The Act of Remembrance was led by SAMA Chairman Gordon Mather who remained on the dais to maintain a 'watchful eye' when Sandy Dawson, widow of Kevin Williams, HMS Sheffield stepped up to receive her Elizabeth Cross and Scroll from the Lord Lieutenant. Thank you SAMA for a brilliant day!



Sandy Dawson and SAMA Chairman Gordon Mather with the Lord Lieutenant and Standards remembering husband Kevin at the foyer Memorial wall



Sandy receiving her medal from the Lord Lieutenant



FIMCT Chairman Jeff Mason with Sandy and Mike Dawson - at the SAMA Gala Dinner



L-R Sandy's family: David and Lyn Brown, Lord Lieutenant Mr James Puxley, Sandy Dawson, Mike and Sam Dawson, Ginny, Darren and Rachel Goldsmith



Sandy and her family at the Cairn...

TRIBUTE

ANTHONY HUDSON – A MAN OF VISION

a personal tribute by Angela Perry

It was Good Friday, April 1st 1994 when I first encountered Anthony Hudson who was to become a major influence in my life. His cousin, Liz Rodgers and her husband Anton, friends who had helped me to raise substantial funds for research into cot deaths, had suggested he contact me. And so he did explaining that he had a vision and could I come and see him immediately? His manner was very persuasive and I was intrigued although at the time I couldn't imagine how I could help. Then ensued a meeting on Easter Monday and the rest is history, as they say!

His vision – a beautiful Chapel which would properly remember all those who died fighting to save the Sovereignty of the Falkland Islands and provide a sanctuary for their families and comrades. He had been working with Admiral Sir 'Sandy' Woodward and many other luminaries of the Falklands war to create such a building but they needed some practical help. Anyone could have been chosen but I happened to be in the 'firing line' due to recent fundraising achievements for a very personal cause. I count myself very fortunate to have been involved for so long in such a wonderful project which meets its core objectives and increases in stature year on year.



Anthony was great to work with! On the one hand he was like a 'terrier' in his determination to make things happen; on the other, a surprisingly quiet, self-effacing man who was kind and sensitive and made everyone he met feel that 'they mattered'. He knew how to get the best out of you, which is why he was a great schoolmaster. But beneath that benign facade he had a dogged determination and energy to achieve what he thought was the right and proper thing to do and a spirit that led him to make sure that it happened. He was a truly powerful man.

During the years of fundraising until the Chapel was built I was based at Pangbourne most days and Anthony and his wife Liz welcomed me into their home and converted their 'den' each day into an office for me to work in. They became like second parents nurturing me through all the highs and lows of our journey to find enough money to build the Chapel which are so carefully catalogued in his book 'Just to See His Name'. How on earth they found time to run the College so successfully I'll never know, but they did! And in the last few years they both demonstrated huge courage after his cancer was diagnosed. Life didn't stop – they marched on together as they always had 'hand in hand' and still caring for others.

In my entire life I have never before met anyone who was so capable of networking in the way Anthony did. This became so clear when, even after his sad death in March this year, so many of his friends, comrades and associates flocked to support the Memorial Chapel that he loved so much. It was a staggering example of how a 'quiet man' could move so many to act and contribute.

I attended both his funeral and Memorial Service in the Chapel. His lifelong friend Richard Morgan delivered the most inspiring address to the 800+ who gathered there in April and he was much more capable of putting into words the 'essence' of Anthony; so I quote from him: "...The more I have wondered about what made him so special, the more I think of a quality that may surprise you in a Housemaster and Headmaster - his apparent vulnerability. Not vulnerable in the sense of being wounded but in the sense of his humility. That vulnerability made people want to help him and want to play for him and thus brought out their very best. He was so transparently decent, his goodness shone out of him. And this has to be based on his belief in God for whose worship he built this Chapel and he lived his life by that Christian spirit."

A copy of Richard Morgan's full Address is available on request from the Secretary.



PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

by Reverend Neil Jeffers

Many of you will have noted last September that HM The Queen became the longest-reigning monarch in British history. The Queen's Christian faith has often been evident, particularly in her Christmas broadcasts. On 21st April 1947, in her broadcast to the Commonwealth, the 21-year-old Princess Elizabeth promised "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong. But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it."

At the beginning of this New Year, we could make that promise our prayer for each of us.

Neil can be contacted directly on 0118 9767 449 or by e-mail at Neil.Jeffers@pangcoll.co.uk or by post to the College

ASSOCIATIONS & CONTACTS

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 **Web:** www.mna.org.uk

The annual Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service at the Merchant Navy Memorial, Trinity Square Gardens, Tower Hill, London starting with the parade at 12.30 hours, Sunday 4 September 2016.

SAMA'82

President: Commodore Jamie Miller CBE

Chairman: Gordon Mather MM

Secretary: Mrs Jane Adams,

SAMA'82, Unit 25 Torfaen Business Centre, Panteg Way, New Inn, Pontypool NP4 0LS. **Tel:** 01495 741592

or Email: secretary@sama82.org.uk

SAMA'82 AGM & Reunion:

8th – 11th April 2016 at the Holiday Inn, Doncaster.

ANNUAL SERVICE 2015

SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2015

A brilliant day!

Sunday 14th June 2015 – the anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands – this, we decided, was the reason that so many of you came from so far to worship and remember in the Memorial Chapel – a wonderful gathering of over 600 like-minded people. There were plenty of newcomers too among which a contingent of HMS Fearless ‘Amphibians’ who had recently sponsored two seats in memory of their lost comrades and a group of HMS Intrepid veterans- The Intrepid Stokers - and Paratroopers who had never been to the Chapel before. We welcomed more SAMA members and all our loyal regulars – families, reunion groups, Standard Bearers, veterans and Friends and supporters. It was a beautiful day organised impeccably, as always, by the Pangbourne College team. Prior to the Service wreaths were laid in the foyer by HMS Fearless and HMS Glamorgan Association – intimate ceremonies to remember close comrades. Families too brought their tributes and wreaths to the foyer and to the Cairn. We all remembered.

The Service began with the sound of ‘the eight bells’ rung by Captain Philip Roberts DSO RFA on the RFA Sir Galahad Ship’s Bell. Falklands Families Association members Sukey Cameron MBE

(Representative of FIG), and Stuart Leeming read the Lessons and HMS Hermes Association Chaplain, The Reverend Canon Roger Devonshire, delivered a moving address. Our President Admiral Lord West accompanied by Lady West joined us again and we also welcomed HM the Lord Lieutenant Mr James Puxley and his wife Deborah. We were delighted that the Lord Lieutenant was with us to present the Elizabeth Cross to Mrs Catherine Lintell, daughter of Private Anthony Greenwood, 3rd Battalion the Parachute Regiment. It marked a very special moment for Catherine who was accompanied by members of her family and was the 44th person to receive her Medal and Scroll in the Chapel.

The music for the day was kindly provided by the Brass Quintet of the Band of HM Royal Marines, Collingwood and Pangbourne’s new Director of Music, Roy Raby, led the Choir and Chamber Choir to produce a beautiful array of musical delights. ‘Paddy’ The Piper, Keith Burton returned to these shores from Northern Ireland to play the Lament for us again.

As always the Service was reverently conducted by Reverend Neil Jeffers and FFA Chaplain,

Father Nick Gosnell, led the prayers.

The entire congregation enjoyed a delicious lunch in Drake Hall after the Service – the College catering department never cease to amaze us and the weather allowed guests to sit on the lawns outside.

During Chairman Jeff Mason’s Parish Notices he paid tribute to absent friend, Anthony Hudson, without whose inspiration and vision the Chapel would not exist and to his wife, Liz, who had bravely joined us for the day. Later Sara Jones spoke to guests about the closure of the Falkland Families Association and presented a cheque for £23,400 for safekeeping for the families by the Chapel Trustees. She also told them that a similar amount would be donated to SAMA to help fund family pilgrimages to the Islands and that the Guards Chapel and St Paul’s Cathedral would be a further beneficiaries for their support of the FFA over so many years.

The Trustees would like to thank you all for your lovely letters and emails in appreciation of our Annual Service day. We would like to share an extract from one such letter from Captain Daz Wight AAC whose father Danny Wight, WO2, 2nd Battalion Scots

Guards was killed in 1982. This was Daz’s first visit and his letter echoes the sentiments of many veterans and families who visit the Chapel year on year.

Captain Daz Wight and his mother Shenia



It was an absolute privilege to attend yesterday and to be sharing the day with so many Falklands Veterans. I was staggered at the amount of people that were there but having attended what was an outstanding service; I now understand why they return year after year. The Chapel is truly magnificent and it is clear that it is lovingly maintained to an exceptional standard. I think the most touching aspect is that each seat plaque or cushion has a story to tell and means so much to so many different people.

From a personal perspective, it was an honour to represent the Army Air Corps in remembering our fallen comrades but equally it was fantastic to accompany my mother who met so many old friends that she had not seen for some 33 years.

I would like to thank you and all those that are involved in the annual service and look forward to hopefully attending again in the future.

Daz Wight



Admiral Lord and Lady West



Major General Jeff Mason and his wife Lucy



Eon Mathews - HMS Glamorgan



Admiral Lord West with the standard bearers



Bernadette Mills and Cynithia Middlewick



Captain and Mrs GC Hunt



Captain Bill and Mrs Daphne Canning



Admiral Sir Jeremy and Lady Black



Brigadier Alastair Bruce and Thomas Garnier



Captain Barry Jones and his wife Norma



Grahame Fry

ANNUAL SERVICE 2015



Commander Keith Evans



'Paddy the Piper' Burton



Carl Keeble and Jack Woodthorpe



Lorraine Matthews and Nicola MacDonald



Catherine and Ian Lintell



Commander and Mrs Nigel Carpenter



Chris and Dawn White



The Lintell Family



Graham and Julie Hurley, and Kenny and Judy Dawkins



Captain John Kelly - HMS Fearless Amphibians



Cdr John Prime, Capt John Kelly, Capt Stewart Thompson, Sg Capt Dougal White - HMS Fearless Amphibians



Mr James Puseley and Mrs Catherine Lintell



Sara Jones and Major General Jeff Mason



Jean Stroud-Mort and Dawn Scott



Paul Sinclair with Gokarna Katswal and daughter



Lintell Family with the Lord Lieutenant



Major General Sir Iain MacKay-Dick and Mrs Liz Hudson



Rev David Cooper and Joanna Thomas



Sir Ian Forbes and Judy Barrow with HMS Glamorgan wreath



HMS Glamorgan association



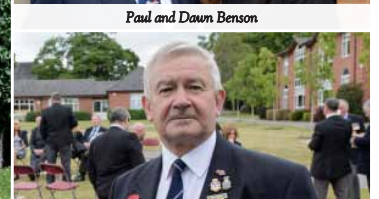
Nicci Pugh and Ozzie Osbourne



The Falkland Families Association bench at the Cairn



Paul and Dawn Benson



Ronald Sandry



Sara Jones and Bernadette Mills



Nigel Shorthouse and children - HMS Hermes



Sukey and Howard Pullen



The Dodsworth Family



The Intrepid Stokers



Peter and René Hanson with Michael and Rita Hanson



The Royal Engineers reunion



Trevis Stampson



Trudie Betts, Paddy Burton and fiancé Valerie Cummings



Commander Wyatt



The Royal Marines Bugler

MEMORIES OF '82

SANDY'S STORY

We left from Brize Norton on 10th June 2015 in time for the Liberation celebration 33 years after the war ended. This was a journey that I never expected or intended to take.

After the death of my husband and the loss of our daughter I avoided any mention of the Falklands war as it only brought terror into my mind. Ten years ago the loss caught up with me and I suffered for some time from post-traumatic stress. I was lucky enough to meet a wonderful counsellor who put me back together. I am constantly aware of just how vulnerable and fragile I am. My coping mechanism is to hide away from any mention of war. When I received the phone call last May informing me of the Elizabeth Cross I was stunned and at first did not want anything to do with it, I suppose I was afraid of going back to that deep dark pit of depression and anxiety. Later, I began to think differently and wanted to receive the medal as a way of marking my late husband's bravery and to say just how proud I had been to be his wife. During the medal presentation weekend I met some incredible people who inspired me to go to the Falklands and lay my demons to rest. The weekend was cathartic. I had never spoken to any survivors before or met anyone from SAMA or the Falklands Chapel, I now feel part of a wonderful family.

I was very anxious about going to the Falklands but I need not have worried. My wonderful supportive husband Mike was by my side throughout and everyone we met made us feel so welcome. Ron, a wonderful man who settled on the islands in the 1970's took us out and about to all of the memorials

which was amazing. The islanders are still so truly grateful for their freedom and tell some incredible stories.

The Falkland Islands are beautiful and I am so grateful for the opportunity to have visited them. The journey will stay in my mind forever but one moment more so than any. Visiting Memorial Wood was probably the hardest part. To see Kevin's tree and plaque made it all real as I had never seen anything so significant before. Kevin's body did not come home so there is no grave to visit. I laid the plaque that I had made for him and stood alone for some time, these few moments were the closest I had ever felt to him and I screamed with the pain of it all. Leaving him behind was hard. I felt so terribly sad and guilty that I might not ever go there again, although I know he is in good hands.

During our stay we were lucky enough to stay on HMS Lancaster for a few days to visit the site where the Sheffield sank, now an official war grave. The weather was against us and although we made it to the site we could not stay for long due to a storm coming so I threw my wreath into the sea which was cold and so very dark. The storm also prevented us from going to Sea Lion Island to see the Sheffield memorial.

To be on the Falklands for the Liberation Celebration was incredible, the service was very emotional but one that I was proud to be part of.

I am so grateful to those who made it possible for us to go to the Falkland Islands. The journey will stay with me forever.

Editors Note: We asked three of our friends who had recently been in the Falkland Islands to tell us about their travels – the two featured here are from Sandy Dawson, widow of Kevin J Williams, a cook KIA on board HMS Sheffield and veteran Captain Martin Reed, Chief Officer of SS Canberra in 1982 give us two very different and moving perspectives; the third is being 'kept on ice' for next time because space is limited! Sandy's was her first pilgrimage and kindly arranged by SAMA.



Sandy Dawson with Andrew Lockett of SAMA



Sandy Dawson at Liberty Lodge

ANNUAL SERVICE 2016: SUNDAY 12TH JUNE

The 2016 Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 12th June at 12.00. As always we look forward to welcoming you all again – families, veterans, reunion groups, serving personnel and supporters. Coffee will be available on arrival and after the Service lunch will be served as usual in Drake Hall. There will be no tickets this year but we would be grateful if you could return the enclosed reply slip letting us know how many Chapel

seats and meals you require. As usual there will be a train collection service from Reading so if you need this service please 'tick' the box on the form. For your guidance you would need to be at Reading Station by 11.00. Thank you!

DO YOU NEED HELP?

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 or telephone call to the Secretary will be treated with the utmost confidence.

If you would like your details to be added to the annual Chapel Trust newsletter mailing database, please contact Secretary below.

(Please note that the Secretary has moved and can now be contacted by letter to the College or email/telephone which remain the same)

CONTACT FIMCT

Mrs Angela Perry
Secretary to the Trustees
Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel
c/o Pangbourne College, Pangbourne
Reading, Berkshire RG8 8LA
Tel: 01295 738123
Email: angelaEAP@aol.com

CAPTAIN MARTIN REED Journeys Down Memory Lane



Captain Martin and Dee Reed

The first time I went back post 1982 was odd. UGANDA was trooping from Ascension to the Islands and back, not the most comfortable weatherwise or indeed in the ship. She was getting very old and we could do little maintenance as we could not go alongside at either end of each trip. Senior officers were then rotated through the ship so that no-one stayed there too long!

I flew down courtesy of the RAF (facing backwards, behind the cargo, with a package of sandwiches and a mars bar) to Ascension, then flown out by ancient helo to the ship. Plenty of time to get used to the idea on the way south with a collection of different troops, then in to the outer harbour at Port William (Stanley). Stanley itself was not too bad, however when we went round to San Carlos I found myself incapable of going ashore. I could see the new War Grave at San Carlos settlement, but could not bring myself to go. I sent all my young officers instead. While there a Phantom used us without warning as a practice target,

attacking at just below the sound barrier and lifting a wing to miss the ship. I found myself under the desk in a small ball without a single thought. Most disturbing. A large glass was required.

I later had lunch in Govt. House in Stanley with Rex and Mavis Hunt, a great occasion which normalised me a bit. I did three more trips and ended up as SS UGANDA's last Captain, putting her to bed up the River Fal.

RETURN TO THE ISLANDS

At a meeting In 2013, my veteran friend and colleague Tony Davies, Lt. Col. Welsh Guards, asked me to read the lesson at the forthcoming renewal of his wedding vows. Having willingly agreed I learned that the event would be held in the Cathedral at Stanley, Falkland Islands! So planning went ahead with my wife, Dee, turning a quick trip to the South Atlantic into a three week journey through the Islands and on to Patagonia and eventually Buenos Aires. From previous trips to the Islands in 1984/5 as Executive Officer of the Troopship UGANDA, and again in 2002 as the advance party (of one) for the 20th Anniversary Pilgrimage of the South Atlantic Medal Association, I knew several of the Islanders and had visited most of the Memorials and famous places from the 1982 conflict. However Dee had married me long afterwards and she had supported me through many annual dinners, SAMA AGM's, and various commemorations without knowing what the Islands

were all about; this was about to change!

We flew down on the Airbridge via Ascension on the 23rd January 2014, the height of the Austral Summer, and in the ensuing days used every layer of clothing we had! I took Dee to San Carlos, meeting the shepherds moving their flocks along the track from Goose Green, and on to the Green itself and Darwin, and the Argentine Memorial.

We returned to Liberty Lodge in Stanley to dress up for Tony and Beverly's Ceremony, which went extremely well. (Indeed it figured in 'An Island Parish!') After the party we flew to see the penguin colonies on Carcass Island for the weekend, before returning to West Falkland for the remaining sites including Fitzroy. Here we laid a wreath at the Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram Memorial, and later at that of the Welsh Guards. Back to Stanley where we went to the Liberation Monument from '82 where a large bronze plaque covers the various people, shops and aircraft involved. There in the top left hand corner was the CANBERRA. Dee said afterwards that we appeared to weep our way around the Islands; indeed it was all extraordinarily moving. The Islands are just as remotely beautiful as I remember and the Islanders remain unbelievably hospitable to any Veterans of '82 and their families. The major change is in the expansion of Stanley and the upsurge of tourism, but despite this the Islands and the Islanders remain remarkably unspoiled.

FRIENDS FOR FIFTY YEARS...



*Left to right
Mrs Paddy Erskine; John "Joe" Erskine;
Mick O'Keefe; Cathy O'Keefe*

Joe Erskine and Mick O'Keefe have attended the annual service at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College for many years. They joined the Royal Navy together on 9th September 1963 aged 15, at HMS St Vincent, the boys training establishment in Gosport. When Joe and Mick left HMS St Vincent, they did not meet up again until many years later at the inaugural reunion of the HMS St Vincent Association. Joe went on to serve for 34 years leaving the RN in 1997. He served as a CPO in HMS Hydra (Ambulance Ship during the conflict in 1982). Mick left the RN in 1974 but since then, up to the present day, is a CPO Sea Cadet instructor. Mick trained quite a few cadets that went on to join the RN and subsequently served in the Falklands Conflict in 1982. Many of them have thanked him for the training he gave them as a Sea Cadet which helped them during the conflict. Mick parades the HMS St Vincent Association Standard every year at the annual service to show the Association's respect to the many ex HMS St Vincent trained boys who went on to serve in the Falklands conflict, some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice.



BOOK REVIEW



by Robin Brodhurst
Chapel Librarian

While this book was published over 20 years ago, it has only been on our bookshelves relatively recently, and while not an exact match for the volume on the Welsh Guards reviewed last year, it is right and proper that a volume on the other Guards regiment involved in 1982 should be looked at. Written by a long serving Scots Guards officer, this is the fifth volume in the History of the Scots Guards, and it is a fascinating story, told in great detail and with a loving memory of those who really matter in the life of any regiment, namely the warrant officers and senior NCOs who always set the tone.

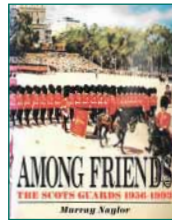
What concerns us here is the chapter on the Falklands campaign. The battalion was at the time on public duties in London, commanded by Lt. Col. Michael Scott, concentrating on such events as the state visit of the Sultan of Oman. It was not until 16 April that the battalion was officially informed that it was to be part of 5th Infantry Brigade, and they left for the Falklands on 12 May, giving them only a month to prepare themselves. One major impression that the book gives is of the desperate hurry to get everything together. In particular, the author explains that due to Treasury cuts 5th Infantry Brigade did not possess a full complement of supporting units, unlike 3rd Commando Brigade, and these all had to be improvised. Not surprisingly it took some time to shake down, and no amount of training could replace the actual experience of war. As always, as history teaches us, war is the ultimate trainer.

Among Friends; The Scots Guards 1956 – 1993

By Murray Naylor

Published by Leo Cooper, London, 1995 £19.95

The Scots Guards landed at San Carlos on 2 June, and fully expected to be the guard of the San Carlos Maintenance Area, leaving 3rd Commando Brigade to assault Port Stanley. However, factors changed and the Guards undertook a hazardous journey in Intrepid and its LCUs to Bluff Cove. This involved eventually a desperate seven hour journey through increasingly choppy seas in which the whole battalion was soaked and seasick. The author quite rightly praises the "skilled seamanship by the Landing Craft Commander, Major (later Lieutenant-Colonel) Ewen Southby-Tailyour, Royal Marines, in navigating a difficult shoreline and those who made the courageous decision to push ahead when the easier option might have been to turn [aside]". In particular here he praises the role of the battalion second in command who made that decision, Major (later Major-General Sir) Iain Mackay-Dick. The battalion was a fraught witness to the bombing of Sir Galahad, given no warning of the attack, but



when the Argentinian aircraft returned they were ready, and in the course of some 30 seconds over 18,600 rounds were fired, and two, possibly three, aircraft were brought down.

The assault on Mount Tumbledown on 13 June was the battalion's major contribution to the defeat of Argentinians in front of Port Stanley, and the account here, superbly illustrated by good maps, is outstanding. It was a three-phase deliberate attack, brilliantly executed by the whole battalion. What comes across strongly is the role of both battalion and company commanders. Not once did Michael Scott pass on to his company commanders the pressure he was under from above to get on with the assault. As an example of how to command it is difficult to better this account by then Major (now Lt. General Sir) John Kiszely, commanding Left Flank company. 'When he spoke to me on the radio, Colonel Mike was calm, steady and logical, but I could tell that he was under great pressure from above.

I told him what was happening and what I was doing about it... He said something like, "Right, you know the urgency. You're the man on the ground and I back your judgement but don't hang about." I drew strength from his confidence in me and I consciously used the same tone of voice on my own radio net to my platoon and section commanders.' Such leadership is priceless, and at the end of Left Flank company's assault on Mount Tumbledown Major Kiszely was left with three surviving guardsmen on the summit, having led the final bayonet charge personally. In many people's view it is a shame that VCs were only awarded posthumously during the campaign.

The battalion had the problem of staying on in the Falklands after the war was won. For seven weeks they were able to gather their strength, and although frustrated by the delay in their return, it was psychologically a blessing as it allowed many guardsmen to come to terms with what they had been through. The author confronts head on the poor press that 5th Infantry Brigade received in some quarters, and quotes the then CGS' praise of the battalion: "They can fully take their place alongside those of the previous generations who fought with so much glory in the past". This is a regimental history of the very best sort, sure to own a place on the bookshelves of any member of the Regiment, but also on those of the many who follow the story of the Falklands War.

TAN STRONG A FLORAL MASTERCLASS OF DELIGHT

Tan Strong, International Demonstrator, Teacher and TV personality was invited by Chairman Sadie Clare (Chapel Flower Guild) to the Chapel in October. She showed all how to use flowers to make imaginative and vibrant designs for all occasions demonstrating huge and stunning displays for grand occasions, gorgeous gift arrangements, hand held bouquets for weddings and pendulous arrangements for festive times. There was even a tribute display to Her Majesty The Queen for being the longest serving monarch.

Throughout her presentation we were regaled with interesting stories of her

life spanning 25 years of flower design. The assembled were entranced. The prelude to the evening was a musical treat organised by Roy Raby, Director of Music, for his Chamber Choir and some talented young musicians to demonstrate their talents to a delighted audience. Thank you Sadie and our wonderful Flower Guild team!



Editor's Note

Tom and Irene Kinsella attended our Service for the first time this year and Irene left this memorial poem with us. Tom served with 18(B) Squadron RAF seeing action in Bomb Alley and on the ground in 1982.

A Hero

If you can mourn for me
When I am gone.
I'll know my life was useful
And I was strong.
Strong in mind,
Thought and deed.
Not for battle
But for Justice and Chivalry!
I did my best to be good and true
In body, mind and soul.
I gave my All in Everything
And I did it All for You!

They didn't win,
Although they thought
they had that day
When evil unleashed its wrath
From its dark domain!

For now my hour has come.
Do not weep for me.
I died, but now Live On
Forever in your Heart and Memory.

Remembered, not forgotten,
In your grief and tears.
I am Immortal now
In your mind and loving thoughts.

I Triumphed
And in Heaven am sublime!
For through my valour and my pain
Truth and Honour abound and reign!

Your time has not yet come.
You must go on now and fulfil Your Quest.
Then you may join me,
To happily Rejoice and Rest.

Copyright © 2014 Irene Kinsella
Email: irenekinsella@btinternet.com