



FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

2018



Major General Jeff Mason greets HRH The Duke Of York KG



The day the eagles landed! (see page 3)

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

2017 has been most memorable, not least because the Chapel has hosted a number of significant 35th Anniversary events and several more associated with Pangbourne College's 100th Centenary. On Sunday 11th June, 870 of us gathered together to reflect on the 35 years since our forces liberated the Falkland Islands and to remember those who never returned home and the families they left behind. We were honoured to be joined by our Patron, His Royal Highness the Duke of York KG, along with high ranking representatives from each branch of the services and the Bishop to the Forces, the Rt. Revd Dr David Coulter, to preach. (Full report pages 4 & 5).

The highlight of the College's Centenary celebrations took place on 9 May when Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, attended the College's Centenary Service - a singular honour for the College and Her Majesty's fifth visit to Pangbourne.

On 21 May, over 300 veterans from 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron Royal Marines, with Commando Air and OP Troops, reunited for a 35th Anniversary Service of Remembrance and lunch. Highlights included Falklands' era aircraft flying onto the campus and a post lunch fly-past! (See page 3)

A further significant event was the Chapel Flower Guild's Flower Festival - 'A Century of Change' - held over the weekend of 13 and 15 October. More than 1,200 visitors witnessed the Chapel adorned with beautifully crafted floral displays to enjoy and to raise funds. (see page 2)

I am delighted to report that the extensive refurbishments undertaken during the summer break in 2016 helped the Chapel look its best for the many hundreds of visitors who attended all these events.

I am also pleased to report that the generosity of so many of you has provided a wonderful response to our 35th Anniversary 'Wish for a Window' appeal. This ongoing appeal for £50,000 has now exceeded the half way mark at £31,000, and we are hoping that the momentum will continue into 2018. A huge thank you to all who have contributed thus far; your names are recorded in a special leather-bound donor register on display in the Chapel's Memorial Room.

Aside from specific appeals, we are so very grateful to all those who support the Chapel and to those who give regularly as Friends of the Chapel. These repeat contributors are particularly valued, as they provide us with a predictable income stream,

enhanced through Gift Aid rebates. We are also indebted to all major donors and particularly, as regards welfare funding, ABF The Soldiers Charity who have been hugely generous in helping us through the past two years.

Major General Sir Iain Mackay-Dick KCVO MBE DL, a Trustee since 2005, a former Vice Chairman and our Army representative, is due to retire from the Trustee Board in February. We are all very grateful to him for his long service and wisdom and we extend our best wishes to him and to Lady Carolyn. Sir Iain will be replaced by Brigadier Charles Page MBE, a Falklands veteran who served as a Platoon Commander in 1982, taking part in the assault on Mount Tumbledown. (See photo on page 7)

We were all sad to hear of the unexpected death at the age of 85 of Sir Brian Hill who, together with former Trustees Sir Michael Layard and Ron Sidell, oversaw the building of the Memorial Chapel and gave us a very valuable contribution of skill and experience which we will never forget.

The 2018 Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 17 June at 12.00 when we look forward to seeing many of you again. I am delighted to report that the Right Reverend Tim Thornton, Bishop at Lambeth and Bishop to the Forces, will be joining us with his wife. (Details:

page 6 & 7). Your 2018 booking form is enclosed with this newsletter and can also be downloaded from the web site and from the Falklands Chapel Supporters group on Facebook. Do join if you haven't already!

My fellow Trustees and I send you our very best wishes for the coming year and I hope that you will be able to join us in June.

Major General Jeff Mason
Chairman of the Trustees



Lieutenant General James Bashall and Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford



Admiral Sir Philip Jones with Chapel President Lord West speaking to HRH

A YEAR OF REMEMBRANCE

A Magnificent Floral Extravaganza!



Flower Guild Chairman, Mrs Sadie Clare

On the occasion of the third flower festival to be held in the Memorial Chapel since 2000, Sadie Clare and her wonderful Flower Guild members dished up an exquisite confection of floral arrangements! Held over an October weekend to celebrate the Centenary of Pangbourne College and to mark the 35th Anniversary

of the Falklands War, Sadie and her team, together with local flower clubs, delighted more than 1,200 visitors with their imaginative floral designs and spectacular displays. The themed exhibition – A Century of Change – took the visitor through the past 100 years highlighting the intrinsic link between the College and the Falklands War at the same time as raising funds to keep the Memorial Chapel adorned with flowers. Every nook and cranny of the Chapel told a story and took the visitor on a journey through time, invoking feelings of hope and healing, communion and spirituality, as well as that of remembrance. The College 'Flag Values', adopted since 2006, were highlighted in

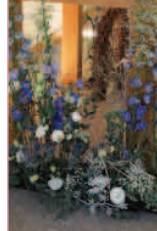
flowers representing selflessness, kindness, moral courage, integrity, initiative, hard work and resilience.

The centrepiece on the altar dais beneath John Clark's memorial window, donated by the Falkland islanders, featured an interpretation of a Falklands scene with waves and spume, shells and stones, grasses and vegetation, behind a pale purple cascade of the names of each of the Fallen on the step below. The Chapel foyer featured tributes to the fallen beneath the wall of names and a special tribute to HMS Coventry and RFA Sir Galahad, whose bell is struck before each Annual Service. We would need a book to feature photographs of all the marvellous floral creations, but

here is a small selection which we hope you will enjoy.

Visiting the festival was a delightful experience in every respect – to see so much beauty assembled in our wonderful Chapel whilst entertained tunefully by Alex Garnier, the Headmaster's wife playing the resident (and most exquisite) Steinway piano.

Sadie Clare had this to say: "Once again we had tremendous support from our regular flower arrangers and local clubs who all produced amazing flowers for everyone to enjoy." Alex Garnier commented: "The neutral colours of the Chapel lend themselves well to an exhibition. The presence of so many flowers presented so beautifully captured well the essence of this very special 'living' memorial and many found the experience very moving."



100 Years of Pangbourne College!

Pangbourne's Centenary celebrations started in March last year with a Lord Mayor of London's reception at Mansion House for over 400 Old Pangbournians. This event kick started an exhilarating and colourful year, welcoming hundreds of Pangbourne's community to dozens of events.

The high point of the Centenary Year was undoubtedly the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke

of Edinburgh at a Service of Thanksgiving in the Falklands Chapel in May; a day that will live long in the memory of all students and staff.

Henley Royal Regatta was the setting for another momentous occasion as 18 past Pangbournian Henley winners and internationals rowed The Queen's Rowbarge, Gloriana, down the course before the prize giving on Finals Day.

Headmaster Mr Thomas Garnier said of the Centenary

Celebrations: "It has certainly been a year to remember. I have been thrilled that all the Centenary events we have held have exceeded

expectations. As we stand on the threshold of the next 100 years, I am genuinely excited by the possibilities."



Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on 9th May 2017

An Extraordinary Day!



Lieutenant Colonel Peter Cameron MC RM

On 21st May 2017, the Parade Ground in front of the Memorial Chapel was positively buzzing with excitement and anticipation as the assembled crowd awaited the arrival of several Falklands' era 'teeny weenie airways' helicopters. And they were not disappointed!

The occasion was the 35th Anniversary reunion of the Commando Air Troops, Commando Air OP Troops and 3 Commando Brigade Air Squadron (3 BAS) Op CORPORATE (Falklands War). This auspicious event had been a year in the making with meticulous planning and application by Lieutenant Colonel Peter Cameron MC RM (CO 3BAS RM 1982) and WO2 John Gilbert RM (Squadron Sergeant Major 3 BAS 1982), who had been friends and colleagues for 50 years! Throughout the planning process they were closely supported by the College Chaplain, the College Domestic Bursar, Iona Sadler, and the team to make it happen, and happen it did, making it one of the most remarkable days in the life of the Falklands Chapel.

At 11.00 precisely and to huge applause, a Wildcat Helicopter, followed by a Scout flew in to

land on the Parade Ground while a Sioux and two Gazelles landed on the lawns beside and below Devitt House. The air was thick with the noise of whirring blades and excited chatter from the assembled onlookers. And the sun shone for the occasion!

Amongst the crowd were the principle guests, including Major General Julian Thompson CB OBE, Commander 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines 1982, Rear Admiral Roger Lane-Nott CB (Chairman of the College Governors) and his wife Roisin, College Headmaster Thomas Garnier and his wife Alex, Chairman of the Chapel Trust Major General Jeff Mason MBE, and the CO of the Commando Helicopter Force, Colonel Lenny Brown MBE.

The moving Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving that followed was led by the Chaplain, Revd. Neil Jeffers, and attended by 300 including several of the families who were bereaved in 1982. The Lesson was read by Brigadier Tim Donkin MBE, the first CO of 3BAS RM in 1968, and Lt. Colonel Chris Nunn OBE RM, whose brother Lt. Richard Nunn DFC RM was KIA in 1982, read the very moving poem High Flight by John Gillespie Magee, Jnr. There followed a poignant Address from Major General Julian Thompson CB OBE who described the vital part played by 3BAS and 656 Sqn. AAC in the

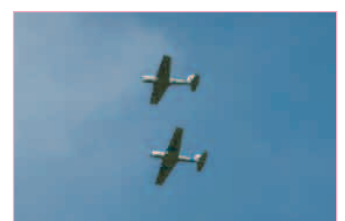
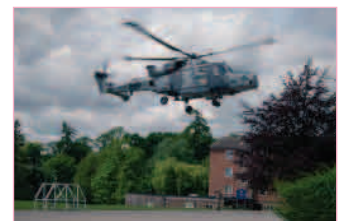
Falklands, saying "It was the first time any helicopter force from a Western nation had operated in an adverse air situation, with the threat of being shot down by jet fighters and the even more deadly Pucara. The dark and dangerous moments were, as ever, relieved by humour", on which he expanded to lighten the mood.*

The Act of Remembrance was read by WO2 John Gilbert RM and afterwards the families heard their loved ones' names read out in a Roll of Honour by two survivors of the 3 BAS Royal Marines' lost aircraft: WO1 Eddy Candlish RM and Sergeant Bill Belcher MBE RM who is a regular visitor and supporter of the Memorial Chapel. The names of those KIA from 656 Squadron AAC were read out by Lieutenant Colonel Tony Bourne AAC, OC Gazelle Flight 1982, who also performed the Act of Remembrance. After the Last Post, Silence and Reveille, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Cameron MC RM and Brigadier Colin Sibun, OC 656 Squadron AAC 1982, laid wreaths in remembrance. The prayers were led by Corporal Steven Jary RM (B Flight Corporal) 3BAS RM in 1982 and included the prayers of The Fleet Air Arm, The Army Air Corps and the Royal Marines. Rousing hymns, sung with gusto by the assembled, including 'For all the saints...' and 'I vow to thee my country', were played by Dame Jane Gow Whiteley

DBE, the organist for the Service, deftly assisted by the Honourable Mrs Mary Bayliss, a former Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire.

As the congregation emerged from the Chapel, they were treated to a thrilling Chipmunk Flypast performed by the West London Aero Club. That concluded, they proceeded to Drake Hall for a delicious lunch and some moving reminiscences from several of the luminaries who were present.

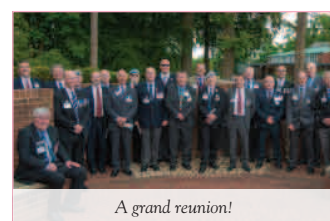
**A full text of Major General Thompson's Address can be obtained on application from the Secretary.*



Lieutenant Colonel Peter Cameron MC RM and WO2 John Gilbert RM



Mrs Susan Giffin and Mrs Mandy Barnes



A grand reunion!



Major General Julian Thompson CB OBE

35 Years Royally Remembered!



HRH The Duke of York KG talks to Lord West and Kenny Dawkins WG

In a year when terrorist threats were rife in the UK and both London and Manchester had suffered attacks just days before the 35th Anniversary Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at the Falklands Chapel, security was extremely tight on Sunday 11th June at Pangbourne. Tickets and names were carefully checked at the gate, and Trustees were all grateful for the patience of hundreds who queued to enter, park and take the shuttle bus service up to the Parade ground. Drake Hall provided a welcome and restorative coffee station for thirsty travellers prior to the expected arrival of Chapel Patron, HRH the Duke of York KG, to be welcomed to the campus by the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mr James Puxley, and his wife Deborah. After meeting Chapel President Lord West with Lady West, the Clergy and the Headmaster, The Duke, escorted by Chapel Trust Chairman, Major General Jeff Mason, spent time in private audience with several veterans, bereaved family members and major donors, before joining the procession over to the extended Chapel. The congregation of

870 veterans, bereaved family members and supporters included senior representatives of the Armed Forces: The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC, accompanied by Lady Jones, Lieutenant General James Bashall CBE and Mrs Sara-Lucie Bashall and Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford GCB CBE and Lady Nicky Pulford.

The tented nave extension to the Chapel included excellent audio-visual equipment which successfully transmitted the Service to all those who worshipped within it. Arranging the seating to satisfy everyone's preferences and special needs had been a feat of organisation in itself, and trouble was taken to ensure reunion groups were properly accommodated and members of all ranks intermingled with common interest.

The music provided by the band of the Prince of Wales's Division together with the College and Chamber Choirs provided the requisite standard of excellence for such a special occasion and the memorable address delivered by the visiting Bishop to the Forces, the Reverend Dr David Coulter CB QHC, was well received. The first Lesson was poignantly read by Sergeant Jamie Simeon, 1st Battalion Scots Guards, whose father Sergeant John J Simeon, had served with the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards and was KIA in 1982. HRH the

Duke of York KG read the second Lesson which was followed by the Act of Remembrance, led by Major General Jeff Mason MBE RM, the Last Post and a haunting lament from Keith 'Paddy' Burton Gd Mne, 40 Cdo RM.

After the Service HRH the Duke of York departed and the congregation poured out of the Chapel, through the ranks of the 14 Standard Bearers, to gather in a huge lunch tent on the lawn below Devitt House with long tables abundant with food. It was a joyous occasion, a massive interaction of many with so much to remember and discuss.

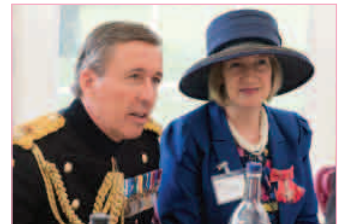
Long table arrangements enabled reunion groups – regulars and newcomers – to sit together. Among the regulars were HM Ships Fearless, Hermes, Intrepid, Invincible, Aldenham and 4 Troop, 9 Para Squadron, Royal Engineers and we welcomed newcomers HMS Hydra, HMS Exeter, and Merchant Navy, RBL and RNA Associations. It was good as well to see large family groups, some numbering as many as 12 members.

From the top table Chairman Jeff Mason delivered his usual 'Parish Notices' during which he thanked all Chapel supporters present, including representatives of Seafarers UK, The ABF Soldiers Charity and the RNBT. He made particular reference to Sukey Cameron of the Falkland



Reverend Dr David Coulter and Reverend David Cooper

Islands Government for funding the new Chapel sound system and to Lord Sterling and P&O Cruises for 'kick starting' the 35th Anniversary 'Wish for a Window appeal' with a substantial donation. He paid tribute to the passing of Des Keoghane, former Chairman and founder member of the Falkland Families Association and later presented a gift to the retiring College Bursar, Ron Obbard, and welcomed his successor, Neil Walne. He expressed deep gratitude for the College team's management of the day and thanked Sgt. Jamie Simeon for his beautiful reading of the First Lesson, not forgetting to thank Ellie Calver, Director of Music, and the Band and Choirs. Special mention was deservedly given to Iain Headley and the catering team for providing such a large gathering with a delicious lunch and refreshments, and to Chapel Secretary, Angela Perry for her hard work over many months of detailed arrangements.



Lieutenant General James Bashall and Sukey Cameron



Major General Jeff Mason and Ron Obbard



Father Nick Gosnell with Sir Hew and Lady Pike



Mr and Mrs Steve Kay and Mr and Mrs Steven Jary



Commodore Michael Clapp with Lieutenant Colonel Ewen Southby-Tailyour



Ian Dalzel-Job and James Gillanders



Commander John and Mrs Heather Prime



HMS Fearless at lunch



The Hanson family



Chris Keeble with General Pike



Lunchtime!



Mick O'Keefe, Richard Shenton and Richard Orme



Ronnie Kemp and Dougie Leask

ANNUAL SERVICE 2017



Lord West and HMS Bristol Standard Bearer Richard Shenton



Kevin Rowe and Len Brownsword



Richard Orme and Cathy O'Keefe



The Tarbard sisters with Paul Sinclair and daughter Debbie and Gordon Mather.



The Visuvalingam family



Mrs Alex Garnier and Pangbourne student



Lord Sterling with the Duke of York



Mike and Sandy Dawson



Members of HMS Ardent with Lord West



Members of HMS Hydra



Janet Heath, Janet Hover and Cindy Strickland



The Townsend family



Mr James Puxley, The Duke of York, Lord and Lady West



Reverend Angus Smith and Dr Murdo Macleod



Colin and Susan Flemming



Diana, James and Joanna Batt



Major General Jeff and Mrs Lucy Mason



Mr and Mrs Rodger Cartwright



David and Pam Le Rougetel with Shirley and Kevin Smith



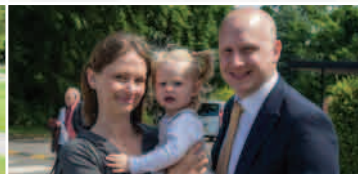
Julie Sherrington and Quentin Oates



Thomas and Irene Kinsella



Peter and Mandy Eastman



Ben Elley and family



Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford, Thomas Garnier and Lieutenant General James Bashall



Sgt Jamie Simeon with Gdsm Alexander Gillanders



Dawn and Paul Benson



Marie Birkett and Tom Gisby



Mark Waller and family



Glenn Coulton and Ian Roden



Carol and David Williams with Commander and Mrs Morgan



Belinda and David Morgan



The Dodsworth family



Dee and Katie Wright



Crocker Crockford and Phil Ces Sykes



Coffee before the service



Ellie Smith and David Hunn



Marie and George Birkett



Tracey and Ian Bailey



Lucy and Paul Sayce with Carol Marshall



Tim Van Der Kraan and Mally Malham

Memories rejoice in tomorrow's promise



Brigadier Alastair Bruce at the Tumbledown Memorial

A young Falkland Islands school girl, called Jessica, was appointed to be my wreath bearer at the 35th anniversary Liberation Parade in Stanley, on 14th June this year. When the moment came for me to step forward, she looked up with grinning eyes but her white knuckle hold would not let go. "Would you like to lay it with me?" I asked, transfixed by her globe-like eyes, which conveyed the innocence of these peaceful islands. Her nod indicated she would.

This adapted moment of ceremony, shared with Jessica, was hugely cathartic for me because it profoundly

underscored what liberation in 1982 had secured for the Falkland Islanders. It had provided Jessica with home, security and certainty.

The cost to the Task Force remains grim but the cause we fought for has held its currency. Having served in the Army since 1982, through the Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns, it is even more evident that this struggle to secure freedom was an empirically noble one and the thriving community is what best honours our Fallen.

On the very anniversary of that chill day in 1982, when 2nd

Battalion, Scots Guards fought for Tumbledown Mountain, I was walking over the same ground. The moment was enhanced by freshly fallen snow that directly recreated the scene. At the memorial, which stands sentinel over a magnificent view of Stanley, my partner filmed me send a message to my fellow officers, gathered in London at that moment. Sending it to them from an iPhone via the Falklands internet, was another moment when the changes of 35 years were apparent. So too was the bizarre 'first' for me of linking to Sky News studios live, in order to commentate events in Westminster as Speaker Bercow was dragged to the chair. How much smaller communication has made our planet.

While on Tumbledown I returned in pilgrimage to the place where Guardsman Jim Reynolds was killed. He had been my orderly, which really means I

got to know him better than any of my other soldiers. I still think of him daily: his humour, his strength and the dire childhood he had overcome. But at 19 he gave his life for these islands. Among the eight our battalion lost, including my indomitable former Platoon Sergeant, John Simeon, Jim is my two minute silence.

When we invited people to bring a stone to Pangbourne for the Stones from Home Project, which formed our cairn, my stone came from here.

In my suitcase, as I flew back to Britain after this pilgrimage were two keepsakes. Another small stone from where Reynolds fell and a photograph of Jessica - the future and the reason why.

by Brigadier Alastair Bruce
OBE DL

*Formerly Scots Guards in 1982 and
a current Trustee of the Falkland
Islands Memorial Chapel*



Jessica finally lets go...

ANNUAL SERVICE 2018: SUNDAY 17TH JUNE

The 2018 Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 17th 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. Tickets are not required this year but please complete a booking form so we know catering numbers. The Invitation Reply form is within this package for returning to the Secretary at the address below. As usual there will be a train collection service from Reading station at 11.00 so if you need this service please 'tick' the box on the form. Thank you!

NEED HELP?

The Trustees would like to hear from any family members or veterans who would like to attend but who are unable to do so due to financial hardship or an inability to travel distances unaccompanied. In these special circumstances, it may be possible for the Trustees to give a measure of assistance to enable attendance at the annual service using funds set aside for

this purpose. If you wish to apply for this assistance, please write to or telephone the Secretary, Angela Perry MBE. All applications will be treated with the utmost confidence.

If you would like your details to be added or removed from the annual Chapel Trust newsletter mailing database, please contact the Secretary (page 8).

ANOTHER MEMORABLE PILGRIMAGE

Jean's Emotional Journey To The Falklands



John D Stroud RN, KIA



Jean and Leslie Stroud-Mort

Jean Stroud-Mort's husband – John D Stroud RN – was a steward on board HMS Glamorgan and lost his life along with 13 comrades when the ship was struck by an Argentinian Exocet missile in the early hours of 12th June, 1982. 32 years on Jean felt strong enough to make the journey to the Falkland Islands. With the help of the Falklands Veterans Association a 10 day trip was arranged beginning on 28th January 2015. Jean was accompanied by her now husband, Leslie Mort, to support her through a very emotional experience. Granada TV, in cooperation with Falklands TV, captured her journey.

Jean kept a very detailed diary of her 'journey of a lifetime' from which we have taken extracts:

Thursday 29th January: 'Landing at Mount Pleasant Airport, all I could see was rough land; "is this it" I thought, and felt really upset. It was summer in the Falklands and we had travelled for about 30 hours in total! We were met by Dave Case who was in HMS Glamorgan in 1982 and was working at Mount Pleasant. He was to take us and

Andy, a veteran of HMS Intrepid who was staying at Liberty Lodge, to Stanley.

We had an hour-long journey on rough, gritty roads (no tarmac) to Liberty Lodge where we met Ellen the manager, and some visiting veterans who were staying with their wives. Ellen kindly gave me a phone to use while we were in Stanley.

Jean and Les stayed with islanders Billy and Fayann in John Street, Stanley. Fayann has the reputation of being the 'best cook in the Falklands' and Billy was part of the 'team' who, during the Argentine occupation, went to the Governor's Residence and negotiated day time release for islanders with the Argentine Commander, General Mario Menendez, so that they could go home to wash clothes and take baths etc.

Friday 30th January 2015: 'Today we explored Stanley. The houses are not like English houses; they are all timber framed and have colourful rooves. The wind was horrendous but it was sunny and I was cold. Our first stop was the Cathedral, which provided welcome shelter, and I was surprised that it is no bigger than a village church.'

Later Jean met a Scottish carpenter named Gavin who proved to be a

great friend by making a wooden Cross for John's tree.

'In the afternoon we and some veterans went to Government House for tea with Governor, Colin Roberts. There was also a film crew from Falkland Island TV who were reporting the meeting. The Governor asked each of us about our involvement with the war. We had a tour of the house and saw the study where the Argentinians had removed the Queen's picture and replaced it with a photo of the Argentine Commander General Mario Menendez sat at the desk; the dining room had bullet holes in the wall and the sideboard, and the games room had a snooker table under which visiting veterans had written their names; my son, John Paul, was there seven years ago and had done the same!'

Saturday 31st January 2015: 'I haven't slept well ...I cannot believe they do not lock their doors at night! After breakfast, Dave Case arrived to drive us and Andy around. Just before we set off Jan Miller, who I had met before in Portsmouth, turned up with two roses. Jan and husband Tim run the horticultural firm and are very supportive of visiting veterans and family members.'

The party went first to Hookers Point to see the HMS Glamorgan Memorial in a peaceful, coastal spot on the approximate location where the Exocet missile was fired from an improvised lorry.

'I found it quite upsetting knowing that just six miles from here was where John was last alive. I have always been trying to work out in my head how they fired an Exocet

missile from there out to sea. I expected this journey to be very daunting but not this emotional.'

After watching the Penguins at Gypsy Cove, Jean's party carried on to Memorial Wood.

'Walking along the path, I can't believe there are over 255 trees. It's a beautiful place and very peaceful. There is a big map of the Wood and a list of names with a grid reference to help you find who you are looking for. As we wandered down the stone path looking at all the trees and plaques, some had crosses placed there by visiting families.

We found John's tree which was very tall and wispy. I put the beautiful Cross, which Gavin had made for me, together with the photos (John in Sea Cadets, John holding baby John Paul, and a scan of John Paul pre-birth) and a red rose in front of the tree, because John would always leave a red rose on my pillow. I know John would have been very proud of me for making this journey; now people can see what he looked like and how proud he was of his baby son.

I think the location of the Memorial Wood is a beautiful spot and I am truly grateful to whoever chose it and looks after it. It's beautiful.'

During the remaining few days of their trip Jean and Leslie toured the Islands visiting Goose Green, all the Memorials, the 2 Para graveyard overlooking San Carlos Water, Fitzroy, and met many generous hearted and grateful Islanders along the way.

A full transcript of Jean's diary is available on request from the Secretary.



A Wonderful Gift!



The Berkshire Masonic Charity have given FIMC a gift of £500 towards the Wish for a Window Appeal and it was presented by W.Bro Richard C Stone who is also Treasurer of the Chapel Flower Guild.

Picture: left to right

Richard Stone, Chapel Trustees Robert Mason, Sara Jones, Major General Sir Iain Mackay-Dick, Brigadier Alastair Bruce and Brigadier Charles Page. Forefront: Major General Jeff Mason, Trust Chairman

REMEMBRANCE AND REUNION

11th June 2017



Veterans from HMS Intrepid



HMS Exeter group with Mrs Sheila Balfour



The Welsh Guards assemble!



4 Troop, 9 Para Squadron Royal Engineers



The Scots Guards gather together

The Veteran

by Ian Roden,
former stoker,
HMS Intrepid



On the eleventh day, of the eleventh month
at eleven am precise,
He goes to church to pray for those who paid the final price.
His medals gleam, his shoes shine too
as he bows his head to pray.
To remember those who've fallen and given everything away.

His mates have gone and others too,
some he did not even know.
The guys who fell and would not
see their tiny children grow,
The fathers, brothers, cousins, sons,
all lost before his eyes,
Return in dreams or other times
and leave him asking why.

He sees the ensigns and the flags,
flowers decked in black and red,
The poppy worn by everyone
to remember the nation's dead.
The music plays, tears fill his eyes,
a tightening in his chest,
The last post sounds in tribute
to all those lost, who gave their very best.

With head bowed low, eyes firmly shut, he focuses his mind,
And asks God to care for all those that were left behind,
Sailors, soldiers Airmen too, he thinks of those who fell
Who gave their lives so we may live without the fear of hell.

His duty done, he goes back home, another year gone by,
He pours a single Rum and lifts his eyes up to the sky,
He lifts his glass, and raises a toast
"To the many Absent Friends"
Even though he knows deep down he cannot make amends.

He thinks of all the bravest, and remembers all the dead,
The tears flow freely down his face,
as he sadly shakes his head,
The cold November wind may blow the poppy stems
At the break of dawn and at dusk "we will remember them"



A few of the 14 Standard Bearers on June 11th



PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

by Reverend Neil
Jeffers

Almighty God,

We thank you for the
fellowship that is shared
by those who have served
together in war and by
those who have suffered the
consequences of war.

We lift before you those
still living with painful
memories and scars both
mental and physical. We
pray that our fellowship
may be one of support
and comfort.

We pray also for the
families of those who were
lost, that our fellowship
may likewise be a refuge in
times of trouble.

We pray that wherever in
the world there is conflict,
you would bring peace.

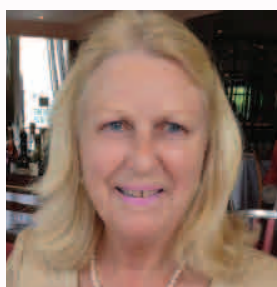
Through Jesus Christ
our Lord,
Amen.

Rev. 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

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