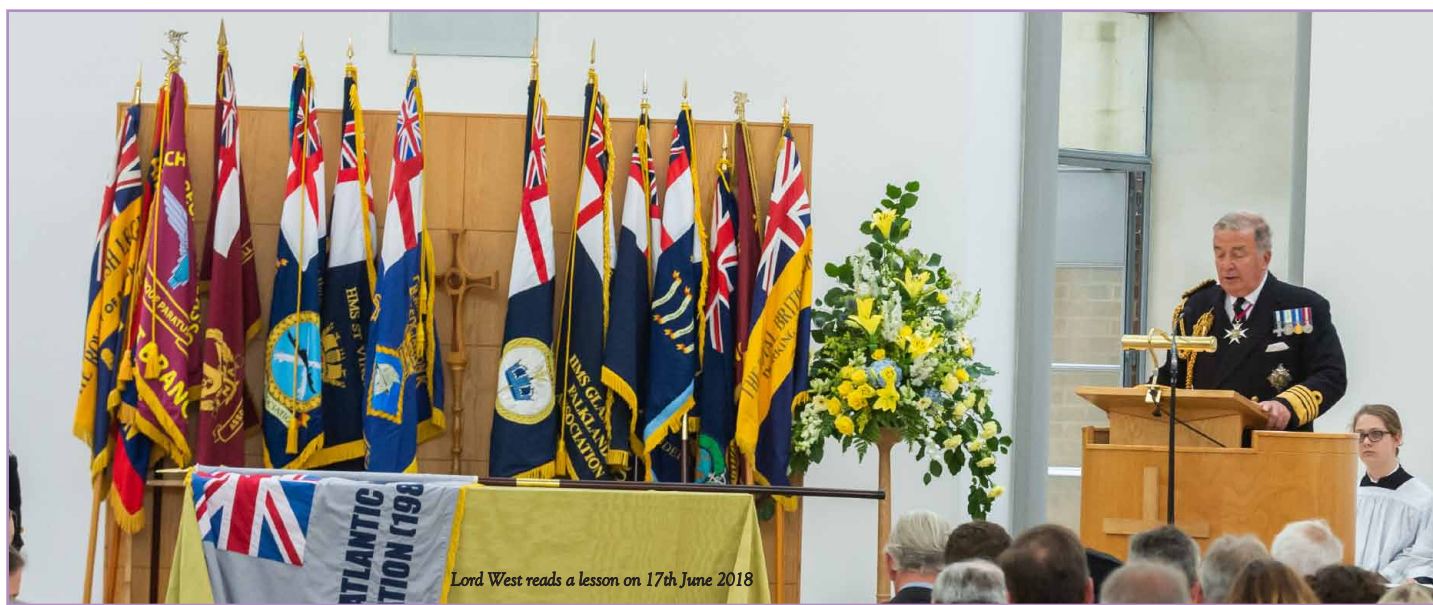




# FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

2019



Lord West reads a lesson on 17th June 2018

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Life at the Falklands Chapel has been almost as busy this year as last year. This goes to show that remembrance is not just about anniversaries; it is a perpetual facet of our lives which must be continued for present and future generations.

At the June 2018 Annual Service, we welcomed a number of our regular attendees and many newcomers. These included high-ranking representatives from the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force along with our President, Lord West of Spithead, the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mr James Puxley, and Sukey Cameron of the Falkland Islands Government. We were also pleased to welcome representatives from some of the charities who have helped us, as well as many families and veterans. We are always pleased to accommodate increasing numbers of reunion groups, and new to the event this year, were a group of 2&3 Para veterans and the engineering artificers' Fiscard Association, the latter having been busy raising significant funds for the Chapel Trust. There was also a record number of Standard Bearers! (Report pages 4/5)

The Chaplain, Rev. Neil Jeffers, will willingly accommodate veterans and families who may wish to request services, or prayers, or a group visit tailored to their needs. One such occasion, in September, was a Memorial Service for Captain Steven Hughes RAMC/2 Para in 1982. (Page 2/3). Rev. Jeffers also conducted a Memorial Service for Commander Keith Evans Royal Navy, an Old Pangbournian, who was a familiar figure, albeit latterly wheelchair bound, at every Annual Service. During the year we were also sad to record the deaths of Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire, a former Chapel Trustee representing the RAF, and Surgeon Captain Rick Jolly who had been instrumental in donating the SAMA'82 Garden of Remembrance computer in the Memorial Room of the Chapel for its official opening in 2000.

Following the success of the Wish for a Window appeal, so generously supported by so many of you, I am pleased to report that the work to replace the 144 window panes above the Chapel's main entrance was completed over the summer. Contributors to this appeal are acknowledged in the appeal register on permanent display in

the Chapel Memorial Room. Our thanks to everyone who has helped.

At the Falklands Chapel, we are indebted to so many of you for helping us, whatever your contribution. Our Friends, who provide regular income, are key to our being able to maintain the Chapel. In addition our good relations with organisations and charities such as the ABF Soldiers Charity, the RNBt, Seafarers UK and the Falkland Islands Government have meant that, when larger sums are needed, they have always been there to support us. The costs of our Annual Service and newsletter, which are probably the most vital facets of our work, are considerable but are every bit as important. We thank you all for being there for

the Chapel which means so much to so many.

The Trustees and I are hugely grateful to a Friend who died in May and bequeathed the Chapel a wonderful legacy in memory of his brother who was killed in action on board RFA Sir Galahad in 1982. (Page 2)

And finally, I am pleased to be able to inform you that the 2019 Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 16th June at 12.00 and we look forward to seeing many of you again.

With very best wishes to you all for the coming year.

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

### PRAYER FOR THE YEAR by Reverend Neil Jeffers



Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Francis Paget, 1851-1911)



## 2018 CHAPEL EVENTS

### BZ The Figsard Association!



From February to June 2018 members of the FISCARD ASSOCIATION (Engineering Artificers) collectively raised the remarkable sum of £3,400, with gift aid added, for the Chapel Trust!

It all started when Eric Haskell, Deputy Weapons Engineering Officer on board HMS Alacrity in 1982, visited the Chapel with his wife in November 2017. Such was their admiration of the memorial building that he suggested sponsoring a Seat or a window pane, in memory of the 14 engineering artificers who lost their lives in 1982, to his fellow Figsardians. Magnanimously they agreed and an appeal for funds was launched in the February edition of the FISCARDIAN magazine. As the weeks rolled on the Figsard Association' Secretary, Reg Maitland, was kept very busy collecting, logging and mailing numerous donations from generous members to the Chapel Secretary, Angela Perry. By June the donations had totalled £2,723 and a cohort

of Figsardians, including Eric and his wife plus Chairman Pat Bradley and his wife and Reg Maitland and his wife, joined the throng at the Annual Service where Eric made a special cheque presentation to Chapel President, Lord West.

Chapel Chairman Major General Jeff Mason subsequently thanked Association Members by writing to the Chairman, Pat Bradley, in a letter published in the autumn edition of the Figsardian magazine:

"It was a great pleasure for all of us at the Falklands Chapel to meet your group of members at our Annual Service and I know that Lord West was delighted to receive your very large cheque! You have now succeeded in sponsoring not one but two Seats in the Chapel and have contributed greatly to our Wish for a Window appeal. Thank you for your collective generosity and a significant contribution to our funds."



Enjoying the moment! Lord West and Eric Haskell

### Alan's War Diary

On 16th August 2018 a group of veterans, accompanied by their wives, visited the Chapel to present FIMCT Chairman, Major General Jeff Mason, with a copy of 'HMS Alacrity in the Falklands War 1982' for the Chapel Library. The gentlemen were all members of the Ship's Flight team in 1982.

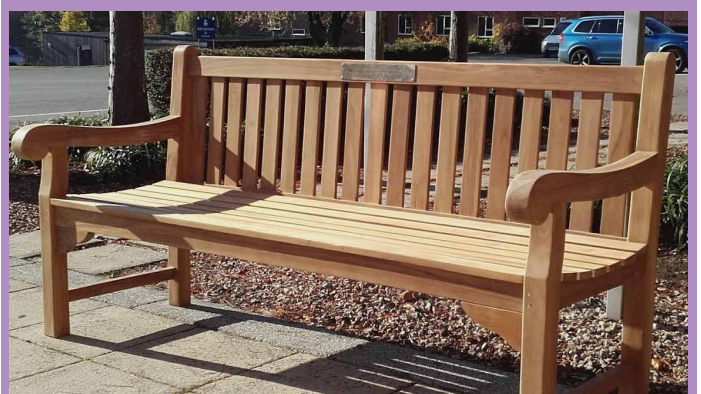
The author of this diary of experiences was Alan Slater, Senior Maintenance Rating, who was joined by other members including Flight Commander, Bob Burrows, Pilot Rob Sleeman and Electrical Engineer Chris Read.

Commenting on the visit, Major General Mason said: "It was a privilege to meet HMS Alacrity's flight team and their families at the Chapel and a pleasure to receive Alan's diary of the Campaign; it is a very special gift for the library and well worth a read."

Many years ago when the Chapel was first built, the Ship's Bell from HMS Alacrity was given to the then Trustees who decided that it would make an ideal font. It has since 'christened' many babies and was brought out of its home in the vestry for the Flight Team's visit.



L to R: Major General Jeff Mason, Alan Slater (front) / Ruth Sleeman, Pat Read, June Slater (middle) Rob Sleeman - Lynx Pilot, Bob Burrows - Flight Commander, Chris Read - Chief Electrician



### A Welcome Legacy...

The memorial bench pictured here acknowledges a most generous legacy to the Chapel from Chapel 'Friend' – Graeme S Henry – whose brother was killed in 1982:

In Memory of Paul A Henry GM RFA, Sir Galahad KIA in 1982  
From His Brother Graeme S Henry deceased 5th May 2018 :

"...my hero who showed me the true meaning of what being human is about – putting others first, always.."



## 2018 CHAPEL EVENTS

### Remembering a very special Doctor

When you read about the inspiring and extraordinary medical capabilities of Captain Steven Hughes RAMC 2 Para during some of the bloodiest battles in the Falklands War and beyond, it does not surprise you that so many of his former colleagues and veteran patients gathered to remember him on Friday 14th September at the Falklands Chapel in Pangbourne. He was clearly a remarkable man whose sense of foresight and preparation for what was to come was key to the survival of many an embattled soldier during the events of 1982. Attached to 2 Para, under the command of Lt. Col 'H' Jones, and equipped with a medical unit of medically trained Paratroopers, Steve sailed to the South Atlantic on board MV Norland. During the long voyage South, realising the possible limitations of a six man medical team, Steve took it upon himself to instruct at least 500 soldiers in battlefield resuscitation and the treatment of gunshot and blast injuries, so that the wounded on the front line would have a greater chance of 'making it' to the field hospitals. As a result, the implementation of his legendary management system for battlefield trauma, saved numerous lives that would have otherwise been lost.

The Memorial Service in Pangbourne was organised by Captain Hughes' daughter, Amy, with the help of the Chaplain, Reverend Neil Jeffers and Lt Col Chris Keeble DSO, who had assumed command of 2 Para after the death of Lt Col 'H' Jones on Darwin Hill in 1982. Among the hundreds who joined the Hughes family and former brothers-in-arms were Colonel 'H's widow, Sara Jones CBE, a Trustee of the

Chapel, Major General Julian Thompson CB OBE, and Lt Gen Sir Hew Pike KCB DSO MBE. Amy was joined by her mother Carol, brothers Jamie and David, her aunt Lesley Ann and paternal grandparents Ken and Sylvia.

After a rousing first hymn ... And did those feet in ancient time... Amy and her god-father, Lance Corporal Bill Bentley, former colleague and close friend of Steve Hughes, made their own personal tributes to him. Amy highlighted her father's formidable power of compassion and told how he had taught her the importance of kindness to others; Bill for his part said that Steve was the one person who did not recognise the extent of his own medical prowess and constantly questioned whether he could have 'done more'; training of others was one of his absolute strengths but after the war he was tortured by the demons of PTSD. Following the lesson -'Honour the doctor'- from Ecclesiastes 38, read by Amy's brother Jamie Hughes, the sermon was delivered by the Reverend David Cooper, Chaplain to 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment in 1982, close friend and Chapel Trustee. He told how Steve was a man solely dedicated to saving lives, both British and Argentinian, and ministering to the sick; his patients came above all else including himself. After the Falklands Hymn the prayers were led by Lt Col Chris Keeble with poignant reference to Steve's family. As would have been Steve's wish, a collection for Combat Stress was taken.

At the reception in Drake Hall after the Service, 2 Para veteran Dave Brown made several presentations including a gift to Amy and her family of a framed

montage of photographs of 'Doc' Hughes, as he was known.

"Doc Hughes saved my life twice," Dave 'Charlie' Brown tells us. "The first was after the war in the 80's; I was in a very bad way with PTSD living in London with my parents. I had a job with 10 Para at White City who put me in touch with 'Doc' who was working at Hammersmith Hospital and, even though he admitted to suffering PTSD himself, he saved my life by putting me in touch with psychiatrist Dr Morgan O'Connell, and I joined his re-hab programme at HMS Haslar in Portsmouth. Doc Hughes always said 'if in doubt, sort it out'. I still have PTSD but now, because of him, I know how to manage it. The second life-saver was in July last year; I had chest pains which I would have ignored if I hadn't remembered Doc Hughes adage: 'if in doubt, sort it out'. It turned out I had a blood clot which would have killed me...."



A moving tribute: Amy Hughes



The Paras gather for the Service



Paul Blissett, John Peka and Ron Webster



Rev David Cooper, Lt Col Chris Keeble DSO



Lance Corporal Bill Bentley MM



The Hughes family L to R: Carol, Amy, David and James

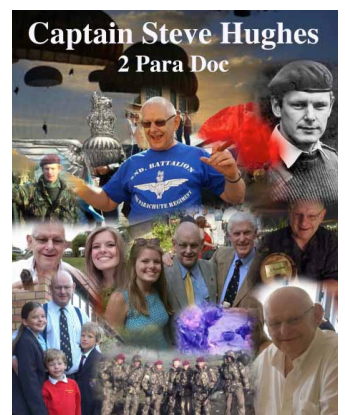


### Captain Martin Reed recalls

In 2002 SAMA82 organised a Pilgrimage for 200 veterans. Steve Hughes was among them. As the group were leaving to go South, an urgent request came from

the Islands for a medic to bring orthopaedic equipment to help an Islander who had badly broken legs after a fall. In typical character, Steve took on the task and brought the gear to the plane we had chartered. On arrival at Stanley Hospital he found that

the patient was none other than Matthew McMullen, son of Tony and June who were at Goose Green in 1982, and whom, as a new born, he had helped deliver 20 years earlier just after 2 Para had won their game-changing battle.





# ANNUAL SERVICE 2018

## Another Day to Remember!

Sunday 17th June 2018; another splendid day at the Falklands Chapel! So many friends and comrades gathered together again for the Annual Service to remember the Fallen of 1982, and later, to enjoy each other's company over lunch. The common bond between the families and those who served beside their loved ones was as strong as ever and does not diminish as the years go by.

Prior to the Service two memorial wreaths were solemnly laid. Captain Chris Clarke, emissary of the Commodore of the RFA, laid their wreath accompanied by Captain Martin Reed RD\* and his wife Dee, Captain Philip Roberts RFA Sir Galahad, and Ray and Barbara Poole, whose son Gareth, 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, died on board the Sir Galahad. The second, remembering those who perished on board HMS Glamorgan, was led by HMS Glamorgan Association's Captain Gerald Hunt, with Mrs Hunt, and Mrs Judy Barrow. HMS Glamorgan Association member and widow of Steward John D Stroud RN, Mrs Jean Stroud-Mort, joined them to lay her own, personal wreath.

The Chapel was packed with 585 attendees including the

Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Mr James Puxley, with his wife Deborah, Air Vice Marshal Graham Russell CB MA BSc, and his wife Pat, representing the Chief of the Air Staff, Field Army Sergeant Major Gavin Paton, with his wife Jessica, Sukey Cameron MBE with husband Howard representing the Falkland Islands Government, and many others representing SAMA82, The Falklands Veterans Association, the RNBt, the Falkland Islands Association, the Merchant Navy Association, the Royal British Legion, The Royal Naval Association and BLESMA. As always our loyal reunion groups came in their numbers and we welcomed 2 Para members in reunion and 'new faces', members of The Figgard Association (Engineering Artificers) as well as the families who attended in their numbers. The Service began with the traditional 'Eight Bells' followed by the first hymn performed enthusiastically by the Band of the Royal Marines and the Choir. The first lesson was read by Toby Jones, grandson of Lt Col 'H' Jones VC, who bravely stood in for his uncle, Major General Rupert Jones CBE, absent due to a last minute crisis. For one so young, Toby's performance

was undaunted and impressive. After a most beautiful anthem from the Pangbourne Choir, the second Lesson was read by Chapel President, Lord West of Spithead. The Act of Remembrance was led by Commander Andrew Gordon-Lennox RN, Vice Chairman of the Chapel Trustees and following the Last Post, Lament and Reveille, The Bishop to the Forces, The Right Reverend Tim Thornton, a recent visitor to the Falkland Islands, delivered a most poignant address. The Service came to a close for another year after the Prayers, led by Father Nick Gosnell CF (RC), Dean of the Cathedral Church of the Bishop of the Forces in Aldershot, who was formerly Chaplain, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.

The lunch that followed in Drake Hall, with an extra marquee facility in case of rain, was delicious and provided everyone with an opportunity to renew friendships and forge new ones. As always the cheery Pangbourne students and catering staff worked hard to ensure that everyone had enough to eat and drink.

In his Parish Notices Commander Andrew Gordon-Lennox RN paid tribute to the entire College team for

*The Right Reverend Tim Thornton,  
Bishop at Lambeth and Bishop to the Forces*



organising yet another excellent Service and a delicious meal. He went on to present bouquets to two retiring College ladies: Susie Belcher, the Headmaster's PA and Margaret Smith, the Registrar, after more than 20 years in post. At that point the microphone was hijacked by 2 Para veteran, Dave 'Charlie' Brown who generously voiced the gratitude of 2 Para members for the proceedings.



MNA members Beryl Aldred and Ron Quested



Cdr Andrew Gordon-Lennox RN with his wife Julia



Andy 'Charlie' Watts



Field Army Sgt Major Gavin Paton and Mrs Jessica Paton with Brigadier Charles Page and his wife Amanda



Pretty as a picture!  
Jean Stroud-Mort



Susie Belcher and Margaret Smith retiring!

Dickie and Annette Dawson



The Butterfields, HMS Glamorgan



John Chapman and Allan Ilderton



Mrs Joanna Thomas, AVM Graham Russell and his wife Pat



Dave 'Charlie' Brown remembering his friend Mark Holman-Smith



# ANNUAL SERVICE 2018



2 Para Group on parade!



Lord West entering the Chapel with the Lord Lieutenant, Mr James Puxley and Mrs Puxley



Royal Marine Band Bugler



Mrs and Mrs Trevor Walhen



Kenny and Judy Dawkins



Peter Graham with Reg Bywell



Lt Col Peter Cameron and his wife Carol



Karl and Jackie Keeble



Ted and Margaret Keeper



The Airborne Engineers paying their respects at the Cairn



Dennis Wing and Michael Fryatt



Jim Loveday and his daughter Annabelle



Luke, Jenny and Mick Derbyshire with Tom Gisby



Janet and Vijay Visuvalingam



Dee and Katy Wright with their magnificent machine!



Eon Matthews, Capt Gerald Hunt, Mrs Judy Barrow and Graham Brown with HMS Glamorgan's wreath



The Glamorgans remember



Mick O'Keefe and Richard Orme share a memory!



John Phillips, Nicci Pugh and 'Ossie' Osborn



Alison Angel and Craig Allen



Nigel, Abbie and Ben Shorthouse



The Roden Family: Ian, Helen, James and Bethany



Catherine Balfour and Louise Goodman with Len Brounsword, Dean Deakins, Steve Kay



Capt Martin and Mrs Dee Reed, Capt Philip Roberts, Capt Chris Clarke and Ray Poole with the RFA wreath



Paul and Lucy Sayce, Mr and Mrs Gavin McDonald



Andrew, Joanna and Diana Batt



Ian and Sue Fleck with Major Gen Sir Ian Mackay-Dick and Reverend Angus Smith



Everyone enjoying lunch!



Thomas, Sarah and Irene Kinsella



Keith and Valerie Burton



Lord West and Vivien Foster MNA talk to Lucene Hughes



Three Generations: Toby, Claire and Sarah Jones



Father Nick Gosnell delivers sage advice to a student



## Tenacious Doctor Cathy!

*Dr Cathy Dent is the widow of Captain Christopher Dent, A Company, 2 Para, in 1982. An officer in the RAMC at that time, Cathy tells the story of her most unusual and recent journey as a Ship's Doctor from New Zealand to the Falklands where she met up with her friend Sara Jones, widow of Colonel 'H' Jones VC, 2 Para. Cathy and Sara share a special bond in that they both lost their husbands on the same day on Darwin Hill, Goose Green.*

At 4am on Friday 23 February 2018 I joined my Forward Starboard colleagues on the bridge of SV Tenacious, a 'Tall Ship' owned by the Jubilee Sailing Trust. Due to almost childlike feelings of excitement and anticipation, I had scarcely slept before being wakened at 0330 for my last watch of the voyage. In the darkness, we could see lights on dry land which heralded our arrival in the Falkland Islands. Our voyage was almost over which was both exciting but daunting despite having prepared myself for over 18 months. Life on board had become a familiar routine which I was both loath to change yet keen to leave.

My life on board 'Tenacious' began in Auckland on Wednesday 10 January when I stepped into an unfamiliar environment which was to become my home for the next 44 days; joining my friend, Jane (also ex-RAMC) and 50 strangers from around the world with whom I was to share the excitements, ennui and challenges of sailing across the Southern Ocean, round Cape Horn and into Port Stanley. As we left the summer warmth and terra firma of New Zealand, the enormity of what lay ahead hit me in an almost overwhelming way – largely because, despite learning as much as I could about living and working on a 3-masted Barque, I had very little idea of what lay ahead. I had never done anything like this before and I was sailing as official, fully indemnified Medical Officer with a voyage of 5828 Nautical Miles (6706 'land' miles) ahead of me – so little in the way of immediate assistance in the event of serious injury or illness.

Well - I had an AMAZING time!!! I can confidently say that I appreciated every moment and enjoyed virtually every second of the voyage. Yes, there were times,

invariably when cold, wet and tired, when I questioned my sanity but almost immediately acknowledged the huge privilege of what I was experiencing. Help, practical and emotional, was always at hand and could later be reciprocated. We watched the Petrels and Albatross which wheeled around us and saw dolphins, sometimes hundreds at a time – including the distinctive hourglass dolphins. (On checking the books we discovered that these small dolphins live in Antarctic and sub-Antarctic waters and "are rarely seen" – wow!).

Virtually everyone on board wanted to sail round Cape Horn and qualify as a 'Cape Horner' For me, however, this was very personal Pilgrimage and the fulfillment of a planned return to the Falklands with Sara (Jones). Consequently, my colleagues of Forward Starboard decided to 'give' me the helm for the final 2½ hours until we dropped anchor in Port William – just outside The Narrows and the final approach into Port Stanley. It felt like coming home.

A few hours later, with Pilot on board, we approached the Temporary Docking Facility, Port Stanley, and I could see Sara. Together we spent the next 9 days seeing wildlife and enjoying Island Hospitality before finally revisiting Blue Beach Cemetery, Darwin and Goose Green.



## The Falkland Islands

### A Treasure in the South Atlantic

by Angela Perry



Over the years these pages have featured many moving stories of the pilgrimages made to the Falkland Islands by bereaved family members and by veterans in remembrance of lost brothers-in-arms. This year it is my opportunity to introduce you to some of the wonderful Islanders who so generously look after those who visit because between 3rd and 11th December my husband Jim and I embarked on our own pilgrimage to this extraordinary land.



Gorse over Goose Green

I can honestly say we have never before experienced such an amazing, sublimely peaceful and welcoming place. Our visit had all of the ingredients required to fascinate the traveller: a dramatic landscape of rugged mountains, rocky outcrops, and peaty ground; stumpy plant growth (there are very few trees); watery inlets and pools; an amazing variety of wild life; and air that is fresher than fresh! As for the weather, I was told that it was interesting - and it certainly was! Despite visiting during the summer, we took clothes for every occasion, and forgot the hair do's – it is always windy!

As guests of the Falklands Government, every moment of our stay was carefully planned for us by two very affable ladies, to whom we remain for ever grateful: Cherie Clifford and Imogen Didlick, respectively the Clerk and PA to the Legislative Assembly, managed to pack so much into a mere seven days that our feet hardly touched the ground! This detailed planning meant that we could focus on the remarkable, kindly people who we were privileged to meet.

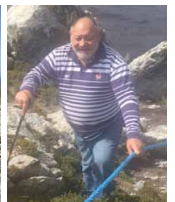


Imogen with Jim at the Malвина House Hotel

Escorted by two extremely knowledgeable gentlemen (John Clifford and Graham Didlick) we were taken on several excursions covering every corner of East Falkland. During these trips we visited all the 1982 memorials and saw for ourselves the inhospitable seas and rugged terrain that were endured and overcome by our brave Task Force. Frankly, I do not know how they did it, and it is no wonder that many families and veterans may have hesitated to return for a reminder, but those who do make the trip, are met with a gratitude which is in itself a truly memorable and inspiring legacy.



Graham Didlick on Sussex Mountain



John Clifford in Yorke Bay

The Islanders are keen to recognise the price paid for their freedom and have collectively made so much of their Islands, working hard to sustain a thriving economy, to conserve and protect their abundant wildlife, and to manage their lives and families within a strong, fair-minded and caring community.

The governing body – The Legislative Assembly – is made up of eight Members (MLAs) – several of whom generously entertained us during our stay. The MLAs strive to improve every facet of Island life, including the environment, communications, transport, fishing and farming, air transport, infrastructure, health, education and training, and tourism. A brand new Historic Dockyard Museum catalogues the heritage of the Islands and its people and is a star attraction for visitors from passing cruise ships; some 54,000 tourists disembarked in Stanley during the past year!



Self with MLAs Roger Spink and Ian Hansen with their partners



# THE FALKLANDS AND MORE...

During our stay we were based at the excellent Malvina House Hotel. Our first evening was spent with MLAs Roger Spink and Ian Hansen and their partners.

The next day we flew on a nine-seater FIGAS (Falkland Islands Government Air Service) plane to Bleaker Island – a settlement owned by the Rendell family. There they farm sheep and also foster colonies of Penguins, Elephant Seals, Sea Lions and a plethora of wild bird life including many types of geese, Skua, hawks, cormorant, shags, ducks, Oystercatchers, Meadowlarks and Giant Petrels – all nesting and producing young while we were there. The Bleaker Cormorant colony has more than 1500 birds! We saw five types of penguin in one day: Magellanic, Macaroni, Gentoo, King and Rockhopper – quizzical little creatures which display such human tendencies and thereby provide hours of entertainment. Our Lodge was comfortable, warm and modern, and the hospitality provided was abundant. Heat and water are wind and solar powered.



John Rendell with FIGAS pilot Andrew



Lovely Rockhoppers!



The Rendell Family: John, Nick, Oscar and Phyll

It does not take long to realise that, outside Stanley, the entire countryside (which is called Camp) is a haven for innumerable types of geese and other wild birds which wander freely along with the sheep.



Self with Jim and the Bleaker Rockhoppers



Sian Davies with son Lefan and her sister Sam

24 hours later we were back in Stanley and John Clifford accompanied us to Yorke Bay & Gypsy Cove where mine clearance is still in operation. There were at least 20,000 mines laid in 1982 and the process of clearing them continues. We had tea that day with Sian and Sam Davies, the granddaughters of Mary Goodwin, one of three Islanders killed in 1982. They were interested to learn about the Chapel and we gave them their copy of 'Just to See His Name'. That evening we dined with MLAs Roger Edwards, Dr Barry Elsby and Mark Pollard and their wives at the excellent Waterfront Kitchen Café.

The next day, after enjoying morning tea with Governor Nigel Phillips and his wife Emma at Government House, and a visit to Stanley Library (where we deposited another Chapel book!), John Clifford took us to Teal Inlet to meet Hazel Alazia, sister of Doreen Bonner who was killed in crossfire in 1982. Hazel had baked us a cake and delicious sweetmeats and we presented her with the last remaining copy of the Chapel book. As we chatted over tea we discovered that she had learnt her culinary art as head cook at Government House, a skill that she has passed on to her daughter Anita. That evening we had a most enjoyable dinner with members of the Falkland Islands Association at our hotel.



Doreen Bonner's sister Hazel Alazia at Teal Inlet

On Saturday 8th December there was a Battle Day Service marking 104 years since the Germans had attempted to raid the Falklands but were repelled with heavy casualties. We attended the Service at the Battle Monument overlooking Stanley Harbour and laid a wreath on behalf of the Chapel Trustees. There then followed a tour of

Christ Church Cathedral with Reverend Nicholas Mercer, and later a visit to Liberty Lodge where we met proprietor Ali Dodd and two visiting HMS Hermes veterans.



Battle Day Memorial Service



HMS Hermes veterans Andy Trish and Mark Smith with Ali Dodd

The lodge is a most impressive facility – a fitting tribute to the FVE, 'Smokey' and Karen Cole and those who generously funded it! On the way we spotted Lady White (widow of Admiral Sir Hugo White, HMS Avenger) who we had met on our travels during the week, and she invited us to see the Argentinian ceremonial sword, surrendered to her husband on Liberation Day, which she had brought back to Stanley from England for display in the Museum.

We were then delivered by John Clifford to the Darwin settlement for an overnight stay at Darwin Lodge which is run by a couple named Anton and Dolly (and Dolly's pet sheep!) – a most comfortable Lodge in beautiful surroundings near Goose Green.



Anton & Dolly make a delicious breakfast!

We spent the next day with Graham Didlick who guided us through the entire Battlefield Tour, explaining in great detail every facet of the Task Force's final push to regain the Islands.

On our final day, and now back in Stanley, I had lunch with members of the Falkland Islands Women's Association, who generously donate to the Chapel Trust each year, and then made an all too brief visit to the Museum. This was followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea with Keith and Kathy Biles: (Keith is the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Kathy was Minister at the Cathedral). After a final de-brief with Imogen and Cherie, we dined

with Trudi and Marvin Clarke at their lovely home and reminisced about Trudi and her friend, Annie Pitaluga's epic 184 mile walk to raise funds for the Chapel in 2004!



Kathy and Keith Biles



Marvin and Trudi Clarke



Falklands Women's Association members: Alison Inglis, Myra Pitt and Zena Butler



The Falkland Islands Association members: Gerald Cheek, Norma Edwards OBE, Ailsa Heathman, Emma Brook and Ariane Goss

Early next morning it was back to Mount Pleasant Airfield for our flight to Brize Norton. We were sad to leave such a friendly and inspiring place but were humbled by the way that the Islanders conduct their lives and demonstrate such gratitude for the sacrifice made by so many in 1982. Although the flights there and back are some 19 hours, the RAF go to great lengths to ensure you are comfortable and (very) well-fed! I would definitely encourage anyone who has yet to visit the Falkland Islands to embark on what would undoubtedly be a remarkable and memorable adventure.

Finally my heartfelt thanks go to the Falkland Islands Government and Members of the Legislative Assembly who enabled us to experience their fascinating land of opportunity!



Self and Lady White at the airport

# BOOK REVIEW

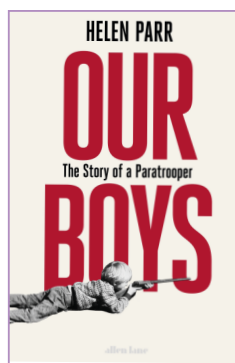
In many ways this is a remarkable book. Helen Parr was a seven-year-old in 1982 when her uncle, David Parr, a private in 2 Para, was killed towards the end of the Falklands War. She can just about remember details of his funeral, but not particularly clearly. However, she is now a lecturer in international relations at Keele University, and has set out to discover what actually happened to her uncle, and who were, and who are, the Parachute Regiment, and what was the effect of the Falklands conflict on this small group of individuals. It is thus in many ways a sociological study, with all that this implies.

In the first part of the book, she describes the origins of the Regiment, its training ethos and much of its history. The specific emphasis on aggression, indeed the prerequisite for it, is seen throughout, and while this is admirable in time of war, its suitability elsewhere is questionable. This, together with her explanation about the two sides of group loyalty makes for uncomfortable reading, but does demonstrate that she is a fair and balanced historian.

The largest part of the book, the account of the Falklands campaign, and the contribution of the two Parachute Battalions, has been deeply researched, and her control of the story is impressive. She has conducted

many interviews (47 are listed) and has beavered through countless files at both the Airborne Forces Museum and the National Archives. The vast majority of her account of the Paras' campaign is excellent and gives a genuinely believable version of their triumphs at Goose Green, Mount Longden and Wireless Ridge.

The most interesting part of the book to somebody who wasn't there is the final one, in which Parr tries to come to terms with the effect of the war not just on those who took part in it, but also on their families. In particular she draws an acute picture of the relationship between the army and society, although her insistence on emphasising class distinctions strikes a false note to me. Where she is most telling is in her explanation of the growing acceptance of the diagnosis of PTSD, and she provides



by Robin Brodhurst  
Chapel Librarian

## Our Boys; The Story of a Paratrooper

By Helen Parr

Published by Allen Lane, 2018 £20

several harrowing descriptions of this. Has society now moved so far in the other direction that anybody in a stressed occupation feels entitled to be compensated for trauma? This part of the book provides much food for thought.

Unquestionably the Army has moved forward enormously in the area of psychiatric support for combat soldiers.

I would have welcomed a few more maps, particularly of Wireless Ridge and Goose Green. However, I have no hesitation in recommending this book to all members of the Parachute Regiment fraternity, and to others interested in the Falklands campaign for the way it confronts certain key issues and particularly that of PTSD. It is a worthy monument to her uncle, fit to match the cairn she built to his memory on Wireless Ridge.



### MISTAKEN IDENTITY!

This is not John Gilbert (as per newsletter 2018) with Lt Col. Peter Cameron! It is none other than Scout Pilot Dick Kalinski, 656 Sqn AAC in '82! Apologies to John and Dick and Peter, of course, who spotted the error!

## Annual Service 2019 SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

The 2019 Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 16th June at 12.00. The day includes coffee/tea on arrival (from 10.00) and a buffet lunch in Drake Hall after the Service. Tickets are not required this year but please let us know you are coming (for catering numbers and Chapel seating) by completing the Invitation/Reply slip enclosed. There will be a train collection service at 11.00 from Reading Station. The Trustees would like to thank the MLAs of the Falkland Islands Government for covering the cost of this event.

### NEED HELP TO ATTEND?

The Trustees would like to hear from any family members or veterans who would like to attend but are unable to do so due to financial hardship or inability to travel distances unaccompanied. In these circumstances it may be possible to assist using funds set aside for this purpose. (See enclosed leaflet). Applications will be treated with the utmost confidence.

## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust is fully compliant with current GDPR legislation. Further details are contained within the GDPR Policy Notice

posted in the Useful Information section of the Chapel's website ([www.falklands-chapel.org.uk](http://www.falklands-chapel.org.uk)) and the leaflet enclosed with this newsletter.

## Footnote

Many of the excellent photos in this, and past newsletters were taken by Gareth Jones of Sports-Alive photography, who sadly died suddenly in October. We send our sincere condolences to his widow, Sally and his family. We shall miss him.

## CONTACT FIMCT

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