

2020



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

This past year marked the first time, in a non-anniversary year, that the numbers attending our June Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving exceeded a congregation of six hundred and fifty! Our promise never to turn anyone away was tested and, thanks to the College's newly built recital hall, everyone who wished to attend was accommodated successfully. This bears testament to the fact that the memories of 1982 never fade, and the commemoration of those who lost their lives will forever continue.

The largest ever reunion gathering of sixty three HMS Fearless veterans and families together with our 'regulars' and many newcomers attended our Annual Service on 16th June 2019. It was the turn of the RAF to field The Band and the Preacher, the Venerable John Ellis, and the overspill of some fifty visitors was able to participate fully in the Service in the Nancy Harding Hall. Lunch in Drake Hall was, once again, a triumph! The superb catering staff never cease to amaze me! You can see a full account of the day on pages 3, 4 and 5.

Our Chapel building is now twenty one years old and generally stands up well to the rigours of the events and pilgrim visits that take place within its walls. This side of things is carefully monitored by Trustee Dick Melly and his Committee, together with the College Bursar, and any signs of deterioration or damage are dealt with swiftly and efficiently, with help sought from our generous supporters, should it be required.

The Trustees are looking next to enhance the Memorial Garden, which they consider is underutilised and should demonstrate a closer connection with the Memorial Chapel. In the first instance it is intended to permit the display of additional memorial plaques on the walls, and a scheme to enable this is currently being prepared.

On a sad note, we remember the recent passing of two loyal Friends, Captain David Pentreath DSO CBE, Commander of HMS Plymouth in 1982, and Sir Donald Gosling, a long-time supporter of Chapel projects, to whom we are extremely grateful.

I am delighted to tell you that, following her retirement as Representative of the Falkland Islands Government in the UK, Sukey Cameron MBE has kindly agreed to become a Trustee of FIMCT. She will help us to maintain our valuable links with the Falkland Islands and its people, and she will provide us with the benefit of her extensive experience with the bereaved families and veterans of the Falklands War. I know that you will join me in welcoming her to the Trustee Board (See page 7).

I have some further Trustee news; our sincere congratulations to Major General Alastair Bruce OBE VR DL who became the Governor of Edinburgh Castle last summer and has kindly agreed to remain as an FIMCT Trustee in an advisory capacity.

I have said, year on year, how very grateful we are to all our Chapel Friends, supporters and Service organisations for your continued donations towards the work of the Chapel. Nothing is taken for granted. This year, we have received generous funding to cover the cost of this newsletter from the RNRM Charity and Seafarers UK, and much of the cost of our Annual Service, to be held on Sunday 14th June 2020 (see page 8), has been

given to us by the Falkland Islands Government which has funded so many of our projects over the years. Thank you all!

> Major General Jeff Mason Chairman of the Trustees







SUMMER 2019



L-R Major General Sir Iain Mackay-Dick, Jim Gillanders, William Rumney, Brigadier Charles Page, Kenny McGovern, Major General Michael Scott, Trevor Elliott, Les Swaney (Rev. Angus Smith & Colonel Ewan Lawrie out of picture.)

We will remember the Tumbledown Nine

Brigadier Charles Page MBE, a Chapel Trustee, and other members of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards in 1982, are making a bid to raise the funds for nine Seats 'In Memory' of their fallen 'brothers in arms'.

"We would like to make a special memorial in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel to commemorate the nine members of 2SG who died during the Battle

for Tumbledown Mountain, one of the last actions of the campaign." Says Charles Page. "Our plan is to raise £9,000 for nine seats, one each for the eight Scots Guardsmen and one Royal Engineer who gave up their lives. Each seat will be individually inscribed as a lasting reminder of their bravery and sacrifice".

"I am therefore asking all 2SG veterans, and others who served

alongside the Battalion, to consider contributing to this worthwhile cause; no amount is too small and, if you are able to use gift-aid, you can increase your donation in real terms".

Each Seat is £1,000 or £800 by Gift Aid. To contribute please send a donation, clearly marked Scots Guards Seat Appeal, by using the form enclosed with this newsletter.

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR by Reverend Neil Jeffers



Heavenly Father we thank You for the men and women who have served our country in one or other of our armed forces and we particularly bring before You today those who have fallen sick, been injured or have suffered some long-term health or emotional problem, through the traumas that they have had to experience while serving abroad.

Father we know that You alone are the one that can heal the heart as well as the body. Only You can cure the inner pain as well as ease the other injuries - and we lift each one up to You and pray that in Your grace and mercy You would meet them at their point of need. Amen

Thank you, Flower Ladies!

The enjoyment of seeing beautiful floral tributes and displays in the Chapel does not happen by magic!

It all started in 1999 when the late Liz Hudson, wife of Headmaster Anthony, was puzzling over how to find the money to have flowers in the 'just completed' Chapel both for the November Dedication Service and for the future. It was Sadie Clare, a College mother and experienced flower arranger, who hatched a plan for Liz and the Chapel which has lasted nigh on 20 years without interruption. With other mothers, and with Liz's help and blessing, Sadie formed a voluntary Flower Guild which has served the Chapel royally over two decades.

Now, from June 2020, the Flower Guild will formally disband. In the intervening years, Sadie and her loyal team of volunteers, at whose core are Secretary Sue Hollebone and Treasurer Richard Stone, have raised enough money by mounting events to keep the Flower Guild Fund going. To achieve this outcome they have organised four wonderful Flower Festivals in the Chapel: in 2000, in the 20th & 25th Anniversary years (2002 and 2007), and in 2010 to celebrate 100 years of Pangbourne College. Under Sadie's leadership, they have made sure that there have always been flowers and floral tributes for families' loved ones in the Chapel for every single special occasion, and their unstinting work has been widely admired.

So what happens now? Sadie says that for the foreseeable future she has a handful of willing volunteers, including Sue, who will happily produce floral tributes and arrangements on key dates, but there will be no formal Flower Guild.

"We will keep in close touch with Reverend Neil Jeffers and will always help if we can," says Sadie.



"There remains some money in the kitty for Annual Falklands Services, and I am sure that the Chapel Trustees and the College will find

In the meantime, Chapel Trust Chairman Jeff Mason tells us: "The Trustees and I are hugely grateful to Sadie and her team; they have never let us down and I know that everyone, particularly the families, would want to thank them for the

an answer when that runs out."

love and care that they have put into every floral tribute over so many years. We will seek to secure an answer for the future."

Diary Date

On November 21st / 22nd, the BB&O area of NAFAS will stage a Christmas-themed Flower Festival. Further details: jane.haas22@googlemail.com

A FEARLESS TALE - JUNE 2019

A Most Moving Occasion

The story of the day was a remarkable Ship's reunion gathering of sixty five at the Annual Service on 16th June 2019. The substantial group, mustered by the Executive Officer of HMS FEARLESS in 1982, Captain John Kelly OBE RN, included twenty five members of the six families who had lost their loved ones when Landing Craft Foxtrot 4 was sunk by Argentine aircraft in 1982. They were meeting together for the first time in 37 years and were accompanied by a further 40 veterans from HMS FEARLESS, including The First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC who served in FEARLESS as an Acting Sub Lieutenant in 1982, plus Major General Julian Thompson CB OBE and Commodore Michael Clapp CB.

Appropriately, the Captain of HMS FEARLESS in 1982, Rear Admiral Jeremy Larken DSO, performed the Act of Remembrance during the Chapel Service and later presented each family with a framed print of Foxtrot 4's Memorial on Bertha's Beach in the Falklands. Everyone then sat together for lunch in Drake Hall.

"I believe this was the largest single ship's gathering ever witnessed to date in the Chapel," said Captain John Kelly. "The task to contact so many members of the bereaved families took some months but it was worth every moment. Everyone declared it a unique and most moving occasion."

The families' loved ones remembered were: C/Sgt Brian Johnston QGM RM, MEA1 AS 'Jesse' James, Sgt Ron J Rotheram RM, LME(M) David 'Dusty' Miller, Marine R. 'Rob' D Griffin, and Marine A. John 'Jimmy' Rundle.



Rear Admiral Jeremy Larken DSO





son of Colour Sgt Brian Johnston QGM RM



sister of Colour Sgt Brian Johnston QGM RM



Pat Cowan sister of Colour Sgt Brian Johnston QGM RM











ANNUAL SERVICE 2019

Thirty Seven Years on...

On 16th June over 650 veterans and families gathered at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne to commemorate the Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falklands Islands by British Forces in 1982. It was certainly a day to remember, tempered only by slightly chilly weather, but the rain, for the most part, stayed away. In addition to the considerable number of HMS FEARLESS families and veterans there were reunion groups from HM Ships INVINCIBLE, GLAMORGAN & HERMES. plus Mine Clearance veterans MCM11, the Type 42 group and HMS BIRMINGHAM, 4Troop 9Para Squadron Royal Engineers and a 2/3 Para group. Numbers were further swelled by members of bereaved and association families representatives including the RNA, MNA, RBL and Fisgardians along with a record number of fourteen Standard Bearers.

This year the Chapel Chairman and Trustees were joined by First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Philip Jones and his wife Lady Elizabeth, and several veteran Generals and their wives including General Sir Michael and Lady Rose, General Sir Peter and Lady de la Billiere and Lieutenant General Sir Hew and Lady Pike. The Trustees were also pleased to welcome John Duncan OBE, the new Chairman of the Falkland Islands Association. The two Lessons were read eloquently by Sukey Cameron MBE and Jane Mellor, Sister of Captain John Hamilton MC SAS/Green Howards in 1982. The visiting 'Preacher' was the Venerable Air Vice Marshal John Ellis QHC RAF, accompanied by his wife Amanda, who inspired the congregation with his sensitive understanding of the losses sustained by so many during the Falklands War. Appropriately, visiting musicians were the Ensemble of the Band of the Royal Air Force who provided excellent accompaniment to Pangbourne's accomplished Choir and Chamber Choir.

Once again, the congregation's numbers exceeded the maximum Chapel seating for 600, and the Service was streamed live to a further fifty attendees situated in the College's new and very smart recital hall. This arrangement worked extremely effectively, according to those present.

Lunch guests, accommodated in Drake Hall plus two adjoining tents, a delicious finger buffet of savouries and sweetmeats. The notable HMS FEARLESS reunion of sixty-five spanned ten tables joined together! During his Parish Notices, FIMCT Chairman Major General Jeff Mason applauded the College Team for their seamless organisation the Service and lunch, and remarked upon the thoughtprovoking Sermon delivered by the RAF's Chaplain-in-Chief. He also marked the occasion of Sukey Cameron's impending retirement by presenting her with

engraved crystal glass fruit bowl. Summing up the day he said:

"It is a great honour to have the First Sea Lord and his Lady with us again, just before his retirement, and we are also honoured by the attendance of many of the distinguished Generals who played significant roles in the events of the Falklands War. I pay particular tribute to Sukey Cameron MBE, here with her husband Howard, before she retires from the Falklands Government later this year. We are indebted to Sukey for all the help and support that she and the Falkland Islands Government and its generous-hearted people have afforded to our Chapel over many years. And, of course, we commend the presence of absolutely everyone here who has turned out to remember those who paid the ultimate price in the Falklands in 1982. It is good to see so many old friends again. Please come back again next year!"



SUNDAY 16th JUNE



hillip and Kathryn Brooks (ref Paul Henry GM)





Major General Anthony Jeapes and General Sir Peter De La Billiere

Captain Bill Canning and Commander Andrew Gordon Lennox







and Major General Jeff Mason



Alan Eykelbosch and Frank Wheeler





Type 42 / HMS Birmingham Ian Robinson



Jane Mellor reads a Lesson



Linda Veryard and Ron Quested



Judy Barrow, Jean Stroud-Mort & Captain Gerry Hunt



JJ Ferry and Major General Nick Vaux





Lt Cdr Richardson with wife Sandra, HMS Fearless







Commodores David Smith and Duncan Lamb RFA with their wives Jenny and Catriona



Captain John Kelly and Mrs Sue Kelly



Margaret Robinson and Elaine Smith



Ray Poole and Sara Jones CBE



Philip Voke, Mrs Frances Green, John and Jean Tagg and Steve Clifton



Lt Col Peter Cameron, Sue Giffin and Mandy Barnes

CONSERVING THE FALKLAND ISLANDS



Conservation Thrives in the South Atlantic

During a weekend in August 2019 Chapel Secretary, Angela Perry visited the Falklands Conservation stand at BIRDFAIR, an annual exhibition devoted to promoting conservation throughout the world.

Angela Perry writes: Following my fascinating visit to the Falkland Islands in December 2018, I was moved to become a member of Falklands Conservation because they are doing some incredibly important work which is very much part of the global initiative to help save our planet and its inhabitants. I therefore asked Michelle at the charity to write some words for you, our readers.

"Falklands Conservation is the largest membership based conservation charity in the Falkland Islands. We work in partnership with the local and international community to conserve the natural environment of the Falkland Islands.

The wildlife of the Falklands is incredible: The Islands are home to two thirds of the world's breeding black-browed albatrosses; we have the world's largest population of Gentoo penguins; endangered Sei whales can be seen from our shores; curious and bold Johnny Rooks thrive here; and we are home to 14 species of vascular plants found nowhere else in the world.

Falklands Conservation work in the islands across a range of activities. We conduct conservation-based research, do on-the-ground conservation work, and engage the local community to be inspired by, and care for their natural environment. Our small team is mainly based in Stanley, Falkland Islands, with one member of staff working from the UK. Current projects include surveying whales and dolphins in order to inform government policy on marine management, and working with local volunteers and land managers to restore vital native plant species and habitats to areas that have been lost and eroded. Falklands Conservation have a long-term project, into its 30th year, to monitor penguin and other seabird populations across the Falkland Islands; this again helps to inform and guide



management decisions, both locally and internationally. We also care for oiled seabirds, and have a facility dedicated to their care and rehabilitation.

In the local community we run a youth group, the Watch Group, for children aged 8-16. This group helps to connect young people with wildlife and conservation. Recently the group have been learning about their impacts on the natural world, and have been coming up with their own priorities for the environment – making sure that the wildlife of the islands is cared for by future generations."

Falklands Conservation relies on the generosity of its supporters to continue its work in the Islands. To find out more please visit us at www. falklandsconservation.com, find us on social media, or email info@conservation.org.fk











SUKEY CAMERON MBE

A Praiseworthy Life's Work



Sukey Cameron MBE is a 'born and bred' Falkland Islander. Her retirement after 29 years as the Islands Government Representative is just the start of the story of a most distinguished career spanning 40 years during which she tirelessly helped to promote the best interests of her homeland to the wider world, even before the lifechanging events of 1982.

Sukey's life began on the family farm of Port San Carlos run by her late father until he retired in 1965. Following her education, both in the Islands and in the UK, she worked temporarily for the Falkland Islands Association (FIA) later becoming its Executive Secretary in 1979 when it moved to London. The 70's were a tense time for the Falklands, as things were moving towards a political climax and the 1982 invasion. Working with the then Director, her remit involved lobbying Parliament, media relations, dealing with general enquiries and seeking ways to promote the Islands - important groundwork for what was to come! In 1981 she was closely involved in having the British Nationality Act amended

to include Falkland Islanders and presented a petition to Number 10 Downing Street which attracted a great deal of media attention. When the Argentinians invaded in 1982 the FIA office quickly became the centre of media attention and the 'team of two' grew to 'a team of many', manned 24 hours a day.

"Once the invasion had taken place the office was supported by a large number of volunteers, and my late brother Alastair, came over from his job in Germany to help, with a bottle of gin and two hundred cigarettes! Sadly the war outlived the latter. understandably!" said Sukey, in a recent interview with Penguin News. She added:

"During that time we worked closely with the MOD – providing them with contacts, photographs and general information. We lobbied MP's for support of our position and conducted a continuous stream of interviews with the media. We also provided a key point of contact for Islanders in the UK, including the then Governor, Sir Rex Hunt, and for the families of members of the Task Force."

In 1983 the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) opened an official London office and Sukey accepted Sir Rex Hunt's invitation to join the staff. "Our role then was to support the 'reconstruction' of the Islands by assisting people to move there and to help find companies to undertake much needed work. Our Parliamentary and media work continued," she told Penguin News.

In the same year, in support of the families bereaved in 1982, Sukey became a member of the newly formed Falkland Families Association (FFA), chaired by Sara Jones CBE.

"The Falkland Families Association was eternally grateful to Sukey for her sage advice and support over the years." Says Sara. "She joined the committee in 1996 and her knowledge of the Islands was invaluable to us. She kindly hosted our regular meetings at Falkland House so we never had to worry about finding a venue in London."

In 1990, Sukey was appointed as FIG's London Representative and, as one of the founding members of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association (UKOTA) in 1994, she has fulfilled the roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the organisation at various times. It was no surprise then that she was awarded a well-deserved MBE in 2003!

Sukey cites the setting up of UKOTA and helping to consolidate the relationship between the Overseas Territories and Her Majesty's Government as it is today, as one of the highlights of her career as Representative. Only last year she was instrumental in obtaining permission for wreaths to be laid by the FIG, along with fellow Overseas Territories and the Crown Dependencies, at the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Sunday 10th November. Another highlight, she says, was being closely involved in the organisation of a series of events which saw the Islands take 'centre stage' during the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands War in 2007.

There is no doubt that Sukey

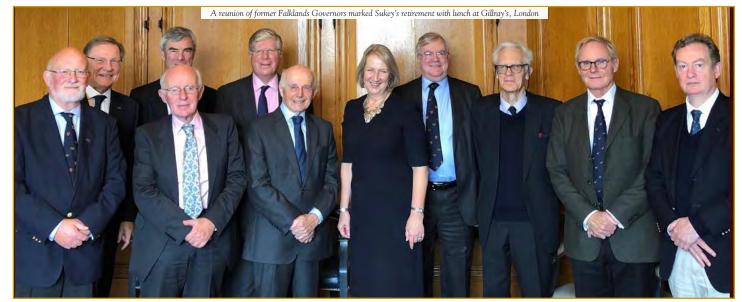
Cameron has played a significant part in broadening knowledge of, and in encouraging support for, the Falkland Islands and its people.

Prior to 1982, people barely knew of the existence of the Falkland Islands or that they were a British territory, with a British population; nowadays knowledge of the Islands is widespread. They have a sustainable future, and they are growing in popularity as a tourist destination, particularly for travellers interested in wild life and conservation.

As Chapel President, Admiral the Right Honourable Lord West puts it: "Sukey has been a true friend of the Chapel but so much more. I attend numerous Falkland related events and she is always there. To many of the veterans she is the Falkland Islands and exemplifies why the war was just and necessary. Sukey is undoubtedly a 'champion of causes' and we are delighted that she has agreed to become a Trustee of the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel. We look forward to working with her."







BOOKS AND INFORMATION

This is a remarkable book: humane, literate, thoughtful and thought-provoking, while at the same time telling a story of action and adventure. Cedric Delves commanded D Squadron of 22 SAS throughout the Falklands War, operating on first South Georgia and then on both East and West Falklands throughout the land campaign. Their story starts in Kenya with their annual warmup training, takes in Ascension Island and ends with a hair-raising operation to help 2 Para's assault on Wireless Ridge which nearly ended in disaster.

Many readers' impression of the SAS will have come from the Andy McNab novels, or even his two volumes of memoirs. Here is the corrective to them. Firstly, Delves writes superbly, with a selfdeprecating ability to show us his failings, while never highlighting his very evident abilities. Rarely has the loneliness of command been better illustrated, as he paces the flight deck waiting for the return of a helicopter with his men. Secondly, it becomes evident throughout the book how it is that the SAS have such a high reputation; it is not through gung-ho operations. Rather it is meticulous planning, superb administration and detailed recce, all resulting in outstanding results. In short, utterly professional soldiering.

Operating on South Georgia allowed Delves to see the professionalism of the Royal Navy in close detail: the command and leadership of Captain Brian Young of HMS Antrim, the flying skills of the pilot, Ian Stanley and his observer Chris Parry, in their aged Wessex, Humphrey. The story of the insertion of a patrol onto the Fortuna glacier, their struggle for survival in an appalling storm, and their extraction while losing two helicopters, without losing a man is a story of bravery, near despair

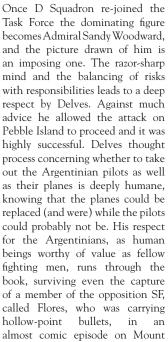


by Robin Brodhurst Chapel Librarian

Across an Angry Sea; the SAS in the Falklands War

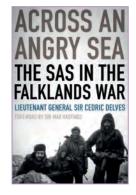
By Lieutenant General Sir Cedric Delves Published by Hurst & Company, London £20

but ultimate triumph and true leadership. It was to be rewarded by the surrender of the Argentinian garrison with barely a shot fired on land and a submarine sunk by helicopters. Lessons were learned and Delves glows with pride at the performance of his men.



fighting men, runs through the book, surviving even the capture of a member of the opposition SF, called Flores, who was carrying hollow-point bullets, in an almost comic episode on Mount

A sixth edition of Nicci Pugh's book, White Ship-Red Crosses - A Nursing Memoir of the Falklands War is now back in print after a brief hiatus. It is available in both kindle and paperback versions. https://www.amazon.co.uk/White-Ship-Red-Crosses-Falklands/dp/1789557402



Kent. Operations supporting advance on Port Stanley are described in detail, even the appearance out of a helicopter with their CO of Max Hastings, who was mistaken for the CO of 42 Commando by one of D Squadron! It ends

with a final operation almost in the suburbs of Stanley, which was mounted in a hurry, without the necessary recce and planning, and nearly ended in disaster.

Throughout the book one phrase kept coming back to me. Francis Drake in May 1587 wrote to Sir Francis Walsingham when he was about to "singe the King of Spain's beard": "There must be a beginning of any great matter, but the continuing unto the end until it be thoroughly finished yields the true glory." There can be no doubt that D Squadron 22 SAS did reap that "true glory". That they did so was almost entirely due to their commander, although he would deny it. Cedric Delves can rest assured that anybody who reads this remarkable book will come to a similar conclusion as I have. This is one of the greatest books about the Falklands campaign, and is written by one of our greatest soldiers.

Please note that all photographs Peter Bloodworth Photography

Annual Service 2020 SUNDAY 14TH JUNE

The 2020 Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 14th 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 and Chapel seating) by completing the Invitation/Reply slip enclosed. Please ensure that your name and contact details are on the form - believe it or not we had six blank bookings with just a number on last year! Angela is many things but not clairvoyant! There will be a train collection & return service at 11.00 from

NOTE: Applications are dealt with on a first-come first-served basis. If / when numbers exceed 600, applicants will be invited to take part in full audio-visual streaming of the service in the Nancy Harding Recital Hall.

Reading Station.

The Trustees would like to thank the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands Government for contributing to 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 In unaccompanied. 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.

Dates for your dairy!

The Annual Service 2021: Sunday 13th June; 40th Anniversary Annual Service: Sunday 12th June 2022.

CONTACT FIMCT

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ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

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