



FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL 35TH ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER

2017



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

It was wonderful to see so many of you again at the Chapel for the Annual Service on Sunday 12th June and we were honoured that the Bishop to the Forces, the Right Reverend Nigel Stock, accompanied by his wife Carolyne, joined us to address the congregation. We marked the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday with a themed street party lunch in Drake Hall and I am pleased to report that the new long table seating arrangements proved very popular and made it easier for everyone to circulate and catch up with old friends. (Pages 4/5).

The overriding theme of 2016 was preparation for this year: the 35th Anniversary of the Falklands War, which also happens to be the College Centenary.

Not long after the doors closed on the Annual Service and the College had broken up for the summer holidays the Chapel was given a thorough facelift. All the Chapel furniture was removed to make way for the floor repairers and polishers; scaffolding was erected for the decorators to freshen up the walls and ceiling, and the foyer carpet was removed and a new carpet laid. In the midst of all this activity we received the sad news that Anthony Hudson's widow, Liz, had died after her own long battle with cancer. On 29th July,

in their inimitable way, the College team rallied round with the Chaplain to organise Liz's funeral service in the Chapel. It was both a fitting and beautiful occasion and no one would have noticed any disruption.

To mark the 35th Anniversary of the Falklands War in 2017, the Trustees have launched an appeal to build a window restoration fund – "A Wish for a Window" – to resolve 16 years of consistent problems with the front window (Page 2). I am delighted to report that P&O Cruises, who generously made the first major donation to build the Chapel in the 90's, have kindly agreed to 'kick start' this important appeal. Furthermore, the Falklands Government and the Islanders, who originally funded the Memorial Window, have generously provided the funding for a new Chapel sound system, the current one having failed us regularly for some time. We are truly grateful to them both.

The gathering together and reunion of friends – whether it be comrades in arms or families affected by the events in the South Atlantic 35 years ago – is one of the key purposes of the Chapel. My co-Trustee, Sara Jones, has often expressed the appreciation of the families to those who had the vision and inspiration to build the Chapel and on page 3 Major General Julian

Thompson sets out his sentiments from the veterans' point of view.

This year our Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will reflect on the 35 years since we liberated the Falkland Islands and, as always, will remember all those who were so tragically lost. It will be held on Sunday 11th June at 12.00 and we urge everyone to book early so that we can assess whether extra facilities are needed because we want to make sure that no one is refused access. Numbered tickets will be issued and we look forward to welcoming the 1st Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB, ADC, himself a Falklands veteran, accompanied by Lady Jones. We are also honoured that the Reverend Dr David Coulter CB QHC, the Chaplain General, has accepted our invitation to preach and we look forward to welcoming him and his wife Grace for their first visit to the Chapel. With us too will be our Lord Lieutenant Mr James Puxley, accompanied by his wife Deborah and our President Admiral Lord West with Lady West.

I hope you will enjoy reading this 35th Anniversary issue and will join us again in remembrance on Sunday 11th June at the Chapel at 12.00.

Major General Jeff Mason
Chairman of the Trustees



Thank You...

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

35TH ANNIVERSARY 2017

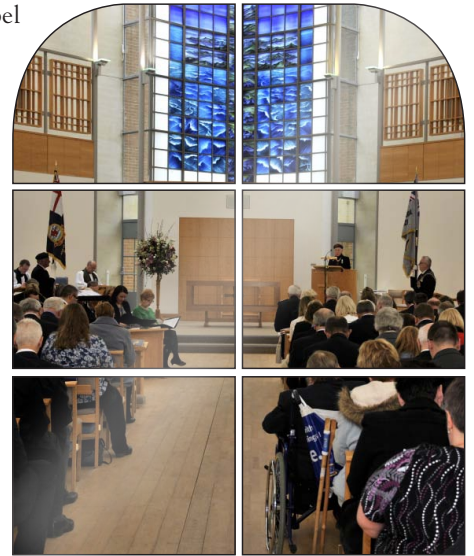
WINDOW RESTORATION FUND APPEAL

'A wish for a window': an appeal
for £50,000

To mark the 35th Anniversary of the Falklands War in 2017, the Trustees are launching an appeal to build a window restoration fund – "A Wish for a Window". Over the past 16 years, there have been consistent problems with noticeable discolouration of the panes in the front window, and more recently the side windows have become weather worn. Fortunately, until 2012, the panes were under guarantee and were systematically replaced at no cost by the manufacturer. That guarantee has now

expired. Whilst a number of remedies is under consideration, it has been decided to use the example of the windows as a means for raising funds. The Trustees are therefore launching a 'Wish for a Window' Appeal and are inviting supporters to sponsor one or more window panes. Donors contributing to this scheme can dedicate their window pane to remember someone they love, and their names and dedication will be recorded in a special register in the Chapel.

Keeping the Chapel at Pangbourne in a pristine condition for its many visitors and regular Service attendees is a primary concern for the Trustees. This ensures it is a fitting location to honour those killed in 1982 who are commemorated there. The windows are a particularly striking feature of the Chapel. As well as contributing directly to the wonderfully light, warm and welcoming aspect of the Chapel, the window above the altar provides an evocative rendering of the islands themselves.



If you would like to sponsor a window pane, please complete the form in the enclosed leaflet. The cost for a pane is £350 (or £280 Gift-Aided).

35th ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL SERVICE SUNDAY 11th JUNE 2017

The 35th Anniversary Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday 11th 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 lunch in Drake Hall after the Service. Tickets will be issued this year and if you haven't already sent a booking form please complete the Invitation

Reply form in this package and return 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.

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

NEED HELP?

The Trustees would like to hear from any family members or veterans who would like to attend but who are unable to due to financial hardship or inability to travel distances

unaccompanied. In these special circumstances it may be possible for the Trustees to give a measure of assistance. A letter or telephone call to the Secretary will be treated with the utmost discretion.

CONTACT FIMCT

Mrs Angela Perry
Secretary to the Trustees
Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust
c/o Pangbourne College, Pangbourne, Reading, Berks
RG8 8LA

Tel: 01295 738123 Email: angelaEAP@aol.com

ASSOCIATIONS & CONTACTS

Merchant Navy Association (MNA)

National Chairman: Captain JMR Sail MNM MNI

National Secretary: Nigel Whitaker
51 Penswick Ave, Thornton Cleveleys FY5 3BH
Tel: 01253 858259

Email: mna.nat.sec@gmail.com

Web: www.mna.org.uk

The annual Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service at the Merchant Navy Memorial, Trinity Square Gardens, Tower Hill, London starting with the parade at 12.30 hours, Sunday 3rd September 2017.

SAMA'82

President: Commodore Jamie Miller CBE

Chairman: Gordon Mather MM **Secretary:** Mrs Jane Adams,
SAMA'82, Unit 25 Torfaen Business Centre, Panteg Way, New Inn,
Pontypool NP4 0LS. Tel: 01495 741592
or Email: secretary@sama82.org.uk

SAMA'82 35th Anniversary AGM & Reunion weekend:

Friday 31st March - Monday 3rd April 2017 (AGM Saturday 1st April) Best
Western Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford ST16 1JJ



A Special Place for Us and Ours by Major General Julian Thompson CB OBE

Thirty-five years ago the Falkland Islands were liberated and became “once more under the government desired by their inhabitants”, to quote from Major General Jeremy Moore’s signal informing the British government of the Argentine surrender. Thanks to the vision of Admiral ‘Sandy’ Woodward, and Anthony Hudson (then Headmaster of Pangbourne College), this chapel was built as a memorial to the 255 British servicemen and three Falkland Islanders who lost their lives in just six weeks of fighting in the Falklands War of 1982. It was consecrated in November 1999; seventeen years and five months after the guns fell silent under the grey skies and snow

squalls of a South Atlantic midwinter afternoon.

To the veterans and families it is a special place, not just because it is the only memorial dedicated to a British campaign since the Second World War; but because it is for us and ours. On the walls each side of the entrance are the names; and on the kneelers and on the chairs: the names of our lost brothers in the words of the Falklands Hymn: our friends, husbands, sons, lovers, brothers. I find it hard to sing the hymn because of the catch in my throat and the effort of restraining the tears. I look up at the stained glass window that vividly portrays the scenes so well known to the veterans: at the bottom the mountainous seas of the great southern ocean, the roughest in the world;

the rugged mountains, stone runs, and peat-covered hills form the cross; and at the top the window is bathed in a peaceful light; healing and somehow blessing us all.

Outside the chapel, life size bronze Albatrosses swoop round the walls; to old sailors, they represent the souls of their mates circling the world for ever. Many veterans, not just the sailors, remember seeing Albatrosses following their ships, gliding effortlessly over waves the size of houses. These magnificent seabirds, and many other features, such as the superb acoustics, and the atmosphere of light and peace are what make the Chapel an exceptional place. There is no other like it in the world.

Each year an increasing number of veterans and families attend the service, joining together to remember those who will never grow old. They were mostly so young, many of us older ones serving down south at the time had sons of the same age. I remember their laughing faces as if it was yesterday; their bravery and their steadfastness; their “can do” spirit. We come here because this chapel provides the perfect setting to honour them and what they did. Because it is in a school, and is used daily, often more frequently, it has a life that few memorials can match. Pupils of the College worship and sing here, some of them the same age as the youngest of our dead, and in this way they keep the memory of them alive; and God willing will do so long after we are gone.

FRIENDS OF THE CHAPEL a special thank you

So many of our readers have become Friends of the Chapel over the years that we felt it appropriate to describe how very important they are to the welfare of the Chapel. Our Friends give us regular donations over a number of years, mostly by Gift Aid, and it means that the Trustees are able to plan what reparations they can and cannot afford. Donations range from a minimum of £25 to several hundred £’s given monthly, quarterly or annually – whichever option suits the donor – and every donation, large or small, matters a great deal. For example, as our Friends will know, after nearly 17 years of constant use, the Chapel interior was in grave need of a ‘facelift’ to refresh it for the 35th Anniversary. As Chairman Jeff Mason has mentioned in his letter, a team of builders and decorators moved into the Chapel last summer to make it ready for all the events of this year. Our Friends funded this costly refurbishment because every penny they give the Trustees is carefully saved for such eventualities. We therefore owe them a huge debt of gratitude and would like them to know that their individual and collective contributions are very much appreciated.

If you are not a Friend already but would like to subscribe please look for the Friends form in this newsletter package. Every contribution matters. Thank you, Friends, for helping the Trustees to look after the Chapel.



*Reunited at the Chapel after 34 years!
Captain David Pentreath and Paul Benson (HMS Plymouth)*

ANNUAL SERVICE 2016

SUNDAY 12TH JUNE 2016

Come Rain or Shine!

The Great British Spirit prevailed supremely over the Great British Weather which was unusually inclement at Pangbourne on Sunday 12th June 2016. This was remarkable because most yearly gatherings have escaped rain and drizzle! But this day of Remembrance for those lost in 1982 was no less glorious, indeed some said it was 'the best ever'. Along with the rest of the country we remembered Her Majesty the Queen on her official birthday. A record number of 13 Standard Bearers, including newcomers HMS Exeter, proudly bore their Standards and the Union Flag (last in/first out) carried by the RBL was laid upon the altar during the Service. The Service began in traditional fashion with Captain Philip Roberts DSO RN, RFA Sir Galahad in 1982, striking the Eight Bells. There was a superbly inspiring Address* from the Rt. Revd Nigel Stock, Bishop to the Forces and for the

Falkland Islands, who spoke of justice, mercy, kindness and commemoration. Lessons were read by Chapel Chairman Major General Jeff Mason MBE and Janet Visuvalingam, the sister of the late Sergeant Malcolm Wigley, WG in 1982. The Ensemble of the Band of the Royal Air Force College delivered truly wonderful music along with the Choirs of Pangbourne College; so many people commented on the excellence of the Last Post and Reveille from the RAF Bugler and, of course, the Lament from our own 'Paddy The Piper', a Royal Marine in 1982. A truly memorable Service by all accounts!

By lunchtime the rain had eased, the sun came out of hiding, and the 500 strong congregation enjoyed a 'Street Party' themed lunch in Drake Hall in honour of Her Majesty The Queen's

birthday with bunting, flags and red, white and blue table décor. Some guests were able to sit outside under a canopy. The new layout provided easy passage for reunion with old friends, families and comrades at arms including the first meeting in 34 years of Captain David Pentreath (CO of HMS Plymouth) and Paul Benson (HMS Plymouth) who served with him in 1982. A top table included Chapel President Admiral Lord West and Lady West, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Professor Suzanna Rose JP DL with husband Clive, the Chapel Chairman and his wife Lucy, Vice Chairman Commander Andrew Gordon-Lennox with his wife Julia and representatives of major donors. The delicious buffet lunch, which echoed the Royal theme included Coronation Chicken filo tart, cucumber sandwiches, Rich Tea Biscuit slice and Queen of Puddings.

Our ever loyal veteran reunion groups were there too in their numbers: the 4 Troop 9 Para Sqn Royal Engineers, HMS Glamorgan, HMS Hermes, HMS Aldenham, HMS Intrepid and HMS Invincible; also present, the BLESMA group under the watchful eye of veteran nursing sister Nicci Pugh accompanied by some of her former HS Uganda patients, whom she nursed in 1982. In his speech after lunch, Major General Mason paid tribute to Pangbourne College for their excellent organisation of the day, to all families and veterans and to all donors, in particular representatives present from the ABF Soldiers Charity and the Royal Naval Benevolent Fund for their generous support of the Chapel.

*Copies of The Bishop to the Forces and Falkland Islands Address are available on request from the Secretary.



Dee and Katie Wright



Mr and Mrs Dave Williams



Eloise and Evelyn Jones



Pam and David Le Rougetel



Tom and Christine Gisby



Roland Rogers



Brant Taylor and John Coker



Rose and Alf Anslow



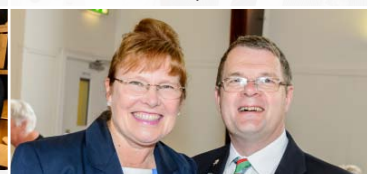
Annette and Dickie Dawson



Jenny Clarke



HMS Hermes Association: The Keepers, Minshulls, Lovedays and Shickles



Yvonne Walker and Paul Sayce



Welsh Guards Brian Owen, Graham Hurley and Kim Hibberd



Chris and Jenny Davies



Commander John Prime and wife Heather



Graham and Marilyn Brown with Patrice Barnett



Shirley and Kevin Smith



Brian & Fiona Brooks, Tim & Sue Tawney & Wayne Owens



Susan and Jessamy Culley



The Goodall family

ANNUAL SERVICE 2016



Lt. Col. Peter Cameron with Lt. Col. Ewen Southby-Tailleur



Michael and Anne Allardye from the RNBT



Major General Malcolm Hunt, Major General Anthony Jeapes and Colonel Mike Bowles



Mrs Ewen Southby-Tailleur, Albatross Sculptor Mark Coreth and Mrs Jane Thompson



Ozzie Osborn and Richard Orme



Lady West and Professor Suzanne Rose, DL



Simon and Emma Atkins with David, Kate and Adrian Albert



Standard Bearer John McKnight and Mrs McKnight



Veterans and families arrive for the Service



Members of HMS Aldenham have never missed a Service!



RNA Bracknell Anthony Boddrell



HMS Antrim Ian Cox



Vicky and Gordon Curtis, HMS Ardent



HMS Glamorgan Association members assemble to lay their wreath



Standard Bearer Eon Matthews with Jean Stroud-Mort and Dave Watts



Admiral Lord West and Captain Philip Roberts



Commander Andrew Gordon-Lennox



FIMCT Chairman Major General Jeff Mason with Professor Suzanne Rose JP, DL



Captain Philip Roberts strikes the Eight Bells



Paddy the Piper



Mrs Janet Visuealingam



Chairman Jeff emerges from the Chapel with the deputy Lord Lieutenant



Lord and Lady West



Alan Dodsworth with family members



Mrs Diana Batt with her daughter Joanna



Superb RAF Brass!



At lunch: Street Party Style!



Paul and Hilary Metcalf



4 Troop 9 Para Royal Engineers



The Tantam family with Toby Savin



Tom and Irene Kinsella



At lunch



'Smokey' and Karen Cole



Chairman Jeff Mason with the Right Reverend Nigel Stock and Chaplain Neil Jeffers



Gokana Kattuwal with Trevor Stimpson



Paddy and Valerie Burton



Headmaster Thomas Garnier with Rear Admiral Jeremy and Mrs Jane Sanders



Eon and Christine Matthews HMS Glamorgan



Jean Stroud-Mort and her husband Leslie



A crowded balcony!

35TH ANNIVERSARY 2017

35TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION OF 3 COMMANDO BRIGADE AIR SQUADRON ROYAL MARINES (3 BAS)

21ST MAY 2017

On Sunday 21st May by popular demand of former comrades, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Cameron MC RM, together with his former Squadron Sergeant Major, WO2 John Gilbert RM, are organising a reunion for all those who flew with the 'Tweeny Weenies' in the South Atlantic in 1982. The reunion will take place at Pangbourne College with a special Service of Remembrance in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at 12.00 followed by a buffet lunch. The plan includes the presence of each type of aircraft flown by the Squadron over the years on the Parade ground (Sioux, Scout, Gazelle, and Lynx), a 'fired up' Wildcat Static Display by 847 NAS, and a Chipmunk Fly-past by the RN Historic Flight.

"All this came about from some of us ex Op Corporate members of the Squadron wishing to get together to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Falkland's War," says Colonel Cameron.

"I asked the Chapel Trustees and College last summer and they agreed the date! It just could not be a more fitting venue for us all to get together plus our wives and families. We must all sincerely thank Bill Belcher for suggesting it!" he adds.

"Our Guest of Honour is to be Major General Julian Thompson CB OBE and we are sending out this message to all former members of 3 BAS over

the years and the Commando Air and Air Op troops that preceded 3 BAS in the middle 1960's. We hope that they will get in touch and join us too on our very special day. We have already heard from some 120 old colleagues but there is plenty of room for more."

To help cover the costs of the reunion day, which he estimates at £20 per head, Colonel Cameron is planning to apply for a grant from Service Charities. If not successful there will be a 'ticket price' per attendee.

If you were appropriately involved in 1982 and would like to know more about the event or to register interest in attending please contact:

Peter Cameron
petercameron@btopenworld.com

+44(0)1822 810135
+44(0)7788 817588

John Gilbert
jhnglbrt1@yahoo.co.uk

+44 (0)1626 852184
+44 (0)7873 701698

ERRATUM

In Newsletter 2016 (page 6) we wrongly stated that Sandy and Mike Dawson's pilgrimage to the Falkland Islands had been arranged by SAMA82. Our thanks to Derek 'Smokey' Cole for pointing out that it was organised by the FVF (Falklands Veterans Foundation) of which he is CEO with support from FIG, RNBT and HMS Lancaster. (www.falklandsveterans.org, uk 02392 511582)



"San Carlos Landings 21 May 1982 – after the Landing Craft, Gazelles and Scouts of 3 BAS and Sea Kings of 846 NAS lead the way..."

Mark Griffin, FBCS, writes...

Did you know we have a group on Facebook? Go to: www.facebook.com/groups/memorial.chapel

The main aim of the group is to keep you informed about the Annual Service, and

other events that take place there during the rest of the year. This matters a lot as this year is of course a special occasion and indeed the group is already being used to raise and discuss ideas for participation.

Social media is just that – social. We have added more than 200 photos from the 2016 Annual Service and many members have posted comments about them. It adds to the occasion and to the memories and they are well worth looking at.

To join, just click on the "Join Group" button. If you're already a member and you know someone who would

want to be in it too, you can add them yourself. Look for a box on the right that says "Add Members" and start typing someone's name and it will auto-complete if they are a Facebook Friend of yours. If they're not, sadly, you can't add them but you could still tell them about it. Click on "Share" and send it as a message or post it to their timeline.



Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Supporters

359 Members

RETURN TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FOR A HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME

by Rear Admiral Jeremy Sanders CB OBE, Staff Officer Ops in 1982



The day after Sandy Woodward died in August 2013 a brochure landed on the doormat advertising a month long adventure to Antarctica, South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. It did not take long to decide that it had to be done.

On 24 February 2015, along with 98 other adventurers from all over the world we embarked in MV Sea Explorer at Ushuaia with its spectacular back drop of the snow capped southern Andes. Within hours we were at sea and heading down the Beagle Channel towards the Antarctic Peninsular. Drakes Passage, the most feared stretch of ocean, was in benign mood for the two days it took to cross, accompanied by Wandering Albatross and several varieties of Petrel. Excellent lectures brief us on what to expect and our kit is examined and cleaned of all traces of biological contamination; we are instructed about disembarking in Zodiac craft.

We spend three days in the peninsular landing twice a day in a succession of spectacular places, snow and glacial covered dark rocky bays, icebergs and plenty of small ice floes. We post postcards at the southern most Post Office at Port Lockroy and set foot on the Antarctic continent at the Chilean Base at Paradise Bay. We mix it with Fur Seals, Gentoo and Chinstrap penguins none of whom

realise they should not approach within five metres. The best part of this memorable experience was a morning at anchor in warm sunshine watching, and in our zodiacs moving amongst, feeding Humpback whales. The deep breathing vibrations of whales, swimming just a few metres away from our relatively flimsy zodiac is an indelible memory as is the sensual silence of drifting in pack ice – amazing creaking noises.

Next stop South Georgia with a chance to visit Elephant Island and Point Wild enroute, where Shackleton's crew waited to be rescued after the loss of Endurance. Our team leader has only managed this landing 3 times in 15 attempts so it is no surprise to find an iceberg blocking the anchorage. What a grim and inhospitable place, swirling dark clouds, a moderate swell generating surf at the shore, forbidding black cliffs – but it would have been good to land.

The Scotia Sea is much kinder to us than it was to Shackleton and the excitement builds at the prospect of South Georgia, the jewel in the crown of this expedition. Less than 100,000 people have visited this unique home to a mass of wildlife. Opening the cabin curtains on the morning we arrive the horizon is a mass of large tabular icebergs; everywhere. Four days later we have seen breaching Humpback Whales, Orca, wandered amongst half a million King Penguins (usually a gaggle supervises our landings), examined the dentures of Elephant Seals, watched colonies of fur seal pups at play, in the water and on the beach (blond fur seals are especially charming). We also visited a Wandering

Albatross breeding site and photographed these magnificent birds, just a few feet away – Storm Petrels too.

We are on our way to Stanley and the Falkland Islands. Head seas and more lectures occupy the time until Stanley opens up before us. For most it is a day of wildlife watching but for us it is a trip to various sites of the 1982 war. Gary Clement and his chum Curly meet us and guide us for the day – the impressive Liberty Lodge, the moving arboretum created with trees for each serviceman lost in the conflict, bomb disposal working parties clearing Argentine mines, the Argentine cemetery (none have been repatriated), a remarkably tranquil San Carlos Water and the British cemetery. We picnic in warm sunshine. The day rekindled several memories.

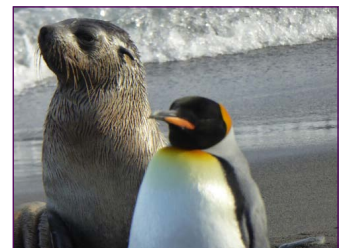
Moving west overnight for a final day of landings on two islands – the first yields a nesting site for Black Browed Albatross and Rock Hopper penguins high on the cliffs, with waiting Sea Lions fishing below. Finally a landing to see Magellanic penguins – we are accompanied to and from the shore by a pod of Comerson Dolphins cavorting and displaying their beautiful opal coloured and translucent bodies. It is a fitting farewell and conclusion to a holiday of a lifetime.



PRAYER FOR THE YEAR by Reverend Neil Jeffers

Length of days does not
profit me
Except the days are passed
in Thy presence, in Thy
service to Thy glory.
Give me a grace that
precedes, follows, guides,
sustains
Sanctifies, aids every hour,
That I might not be one
moment apart from Thee,
But may rely on thy Spirit
To supply every thought,
Speak every word,
Direct every step,
Prosper every work,
Build up every mote of faith,
And give me a desire
To show forth Thy praise,
Testify Thy love,
Advance Thy kingdom.
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



BOOK REVIEW



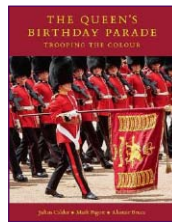
by Robin Brodhurst
Chapel Librarian

There can be no quibbling about this. This volume is amongst the most sumptuous I have ever had the privilege of handling: nearly 300 pages filled with superb photographs and expertly written text. It is a work of art, and it tells the history and the pageantry of that annual tribute from the Household Division to their Colonel-in-Chief, the Sovereign. Many of those who read this annual Chapel booklet will have taken part, and I suspect that most of the remainder will have watched on television fairly regularly. However, I will guarantee that every person who reads it will find new information here.

Opening the book at random you will discover that all the Colours and Standards on the parade are made by the same firm, Hobson and Company of Essex, and have been since 1850. A single Colour will take anything up to 900 hours of painstaking needlework. Or elsewhere we learn that the Ensign carrying the colour always receives a hand-written letter of advice from the previous year's Ensign, having been chosen from about four of

his battalion's junior officers and having undergone six weeks of relentless training. As part of the 2012 Diamond Jubilee celebrations the Queen gave a dinner for every officer still alive who had carried the Colour during the Birthday Parade. In the group photo taken on that occasion, one senior officer has provided a splash of colour by wearing the brightest pair of pink socks!

Alongside this expert commentary are superb photos taken by Julian Calder. Although he has photographed the Birthday Parade seventeen times, most of the photos come from the past eight years, so allowing every regiment to be fairly represented. He has had access to everyone and



every place, ranging from "the best office in London", occupied by the General Officer Commanding London District and Major General Commanding the Household Division (to give him his full and proper title) to the stables of both the Household Cavalry and the King's Troop, Royal Artillery. All the key personnel involved behind the scenes have been included from the Garrison Sergeant Major to the Master Tailor, from the Master Saddler to the BBC commentary team. The attention to detail in the book is almost as detailed as in the preparation for the Parade. The only thing missing is an explanation of the famous "spin wheel" of the Massed Bands, but that would probably require a separate

book! I had not forgotten that in 1981 a lunatic fired six shots from a starting pistol at the Queen while she rode down The Mall to the Parade, but I had forgotten that a Scots Guardsman, lining the street, Lance Corporal Galloway, wrestled him to the ground before the police arrived. Twelve months to the day later he was on operations in the Falklands. These are not just parade soldiers, but amongst our best and fittest combat soldiers, who exhibit all the best qualities of the British Army.

There can be no doubt that this will be the definitive book about Trooping The Colour. It is not cheap, but the publishers have produced a superb volume which will richly reward those who read it. Every June from now on I shall watch the parade on television with a much better informed knowledge, and I suspect I shall know quite as much as the BBC commentator, unless he has bought himself a copy of this indispensable guide to what the authors rightly call "an event that carries the nation's heartbeat".

100 YEARS of floral tributes

To mark the 35th Anniversary of the Falklands War and to celebrate the College Centenary the Chapel Flower Guild is organising another popular Flower Festival. The event will be held on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th October (Preview 19.00-21.00 on 13th October, ticket only). This event in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel will bring together both the community and the wider world to enjoy a heritage story told through floral displays. Open each day from 11.00 – 16.30 and concluding with a Sunday Service led by Chaplain



Rev. Neil Jeffers and the College musicians. Further information or to sponsor an arrangement contact: sadieclare@gmail.com

FALKLANDS CHARITY LOOKS FOR SUPPORT

The charity Falklands Conservation, which works in partnership with the local and international community to conserve the natural environment of the Falkland Islands, is running an appeal for £850,000.

The Falkland Islands and its surrounding waters are internationally important for wildlife particularly the seabird populations which are of global significance both numerically and in terms of conservation status.

David Spivack, UK Director of the charity, tells us about the appeal. "Our vision is to construct a purpose built facility comprising of a large education hall, housing for the

Falklands National Herbarium, and complimentary offices. The main focus will be the educational hall, with an aim to inspire our children, inform and enthuse our local community, and to showcase to international visitors that we are proud of our natural environment, and are taking steps to manage and protect it. The surrounding area will celebrate wildlife with native plants, walkways, and public art, with an overall development that encapsulates increased awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural environment."

To find out more or to donate contact David at ukdirector@conservation.org.fk