



FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

2021



June 14th 2020 Scots Guards veteran 'Ossie' Osborn fires the Cannon at Belvoir Castle at 12.00 to coincide with the Chapel's 'virtual' Annual Service!

Chairman's letter

The events of the past year have been both unprecedented and shocking. Who would have thought that, when we gathered together for our Annual Service in 2019, we would not meet again in 2020 and that a global pandemic of such epic proportions would wreak havoc with all our lives? But it happened, and we can only hope that, after all the tragedies, the lock-downs and the disruption to so many, normality will eventually return. So many of you have suffered challenging times, and in this issue of our newsletter we tell you how some of our veterans, families and support organisations have been coping



Congratulations! Sukey Cameron (now) OBE dressed for our 'virtual' Annual Service on 14th June!

with a new kind of life, and helping their communities to manage. We catalogue what happened on 14th June 2020, illustrating how remembrance continues to play a significant role in spite of unfolding events. We are truly grateful to Rev Neil Jeffers and his team for creating the 'Virtual Service' which received over 1,200 views. A link remains on the website for those who wish to revisit the Service.

We also introduce a new initiative to enhance the Memorial Garden through a scheme to allow the display of commemorative plaques in time for the 40th Anniversary (page 2).

I know that the Chapel Supporters group on Facebook has been extremely active and attracted many new members – all thanks to Chapel Friend, and SAMA 82 member, Joe Erskine!

The FIMCT office has remained open throughout the pandemic, and many of you have been in touch. Sadly, the Chapel has had to be closed for a long period, but the situation remains under review. Please see the website for updates.

I would like to thank everyone who sent donations in lieu of attending a 'live' Service last June. I would also like to acknowledge two significant gifts: the Falkland Islands Government (FIG) has been most generous in providing funding for the Annual Services; and a significant sum has been received from the Merchant Navy Falklands '82 Trust, on its closure, which will be used for the benefit of Merchant Navy readers and visitors to the Chapel. We are indebted both to Vivien Foster and to her Trustees for their thoughtfulness, and also to Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Falkland Islands for their long-standing support.

Amongst all the sadness of 2020, we sent messages of condolence to Sadie Clare on losing her husband, John, and to Pat Goodall on losing her husband Stuart. Both families have been loyal friends of the Chapel and remain in our thoughts and prayers.

As you can imagine, much of this current year will be devoted to finalising our plans for 12th June 2022 and the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War. We shall do our best to ensure that this milestone is commemorated with the respect it deserves.

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR by Reverend Neil Jeffers

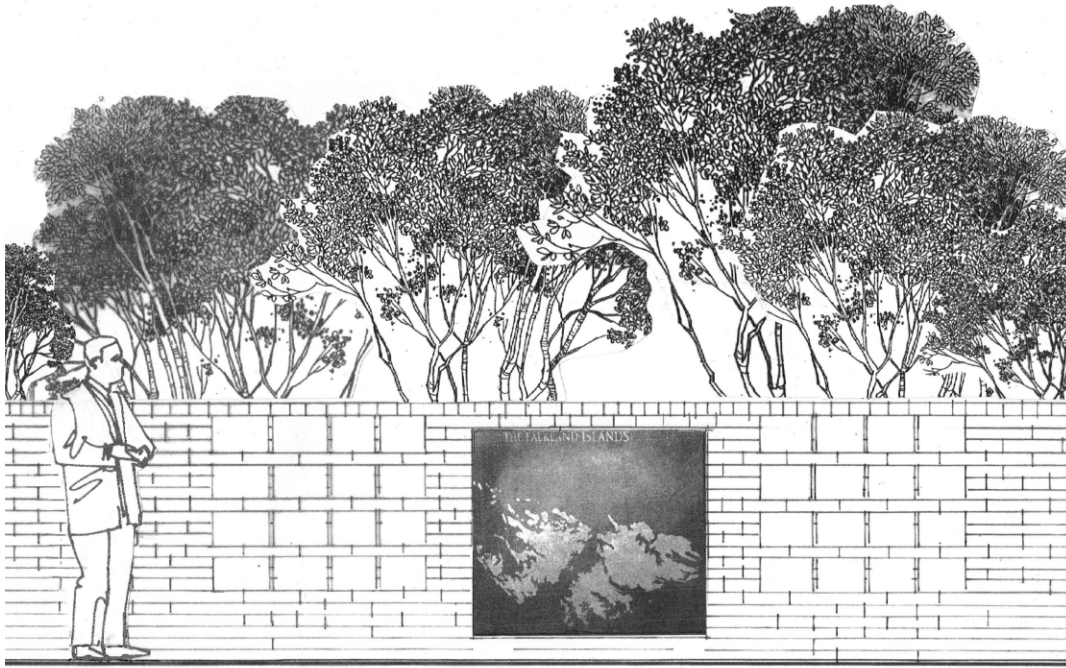


Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Sunday 13th June 2021 is our intended date for this year's Annual Service (page 8), and we very much look forward to a welcome reunion of the Chapel 'family' and to bid goodbye to the torrid times of 2020.

Major General Jeff Mason
Chairman of the Trustees



Memorial Garden to be enhanced

For some time now, the Trustees have felt that they should transform the interior of the Memorial Garden from a less lonely space into a more comforting and peaceful place of contemplation, and they need your help.

Many of you will know that the circular garden, which lies adjacent to the Chapel, surrounded by its ornamental

grasses and rocks typical of those found in the Falkland Islands, presently contains only two wall hung features: a map of the Falkland Islands and the plaque in memory of the SAS who fell in 1982. The Trustees have decided, therefore, to permit the installation of more plaques on the inside walls of the feature. This will enable appropriate organisations, on the eve of the 40th Anniversary, to

commemorate their involvement in the Falklands War, as well as to permit a modest element of fundraising towards the Chapel's upkeep.

The cost of a plaque is set at £1,500. If you are interested in sponsoring a plaque, please refer to the enclosed information sheet or visit www.falklands-chapel.org.uk where full details are provided.

Appeal to remember 'the Tumbledown Nine' is a resounding success!



In last year's newsletter, Trustee Brigadier Charles Page MBE and other members

of Second Battalion Scots Guards in 1982, made a bid to raise £9,000 to remember the eight Scots Guards and one Royal Engineer by giving them each a Seat plaque in the Memorial Chapel. Thanks to the generosity of members of the Scots Guards and many generous readers, their ambition to commemorate 'their brothers in arms' who lost their lives during the battle for Tumbledown Mountain on 13th / 14th June 1982, has been achieved and the appeal is now closed.

A plaque for each of the following has been made and will be in place by the time the Chapel

is open again to the public. In addition, a Donor register, on view in the Memorial Room, will contain personal tributes from each generous donor.

Guardsman DJ Denholm SG,
Guardsman D Malcolmson SG,
Lance Sergeant C Mitchell SG,
Lance Corporal JB Pashley RE,
Guardsman JBC Reynolds DCM SG,
Sergeant J Simeon SG,
Guardsman AG Stirling SG,
Guardsman R Tanbini SG, Warrant Officer Class 2 D Wight SG

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this appeal.



A Virtual Service and a great team effort!



Thanks to the skill and creativity of a Pangbourne colleague, Reverend Neil Jeffers was able to orchestrate a 'Virtual Annual Service' for us all on You Tube at midday on Sunday 14th June 2020. Following the traditional eight strikes of the RFA Sir Galahad Bell in the Chapel foyer, he began the Service by welcoming his virtual audience of over 1,200 veterans and family members. Thence followed a 'mini' version of the Service we all know and love with recorded readings from Cindy Lancaster, widow of David Strickland RN, HMS Coventry in 1982, and Brigadier Charles Page MBE (pictured left), Chapel Trustee and former Scots Guardsman in 1982. A cleverly constructed Anthem was sung remotely by the Choir! The Falklands Hymn with the congregation in full flow, and the Act of Remembrance which followed it, both featured footage from 2019. Reverend Neil delivered a live, and inspiringly appropriate, Address which was later widely applauded on Face Book by the Chapel Supporters' Group membership. Last, but by no means least, our own Reverend David Cooper led the Prayers recorded from his living room. As you see, our front page photo shows Scots Guardsman/BLESMA member Robert 'Ossie' Osborn, now Cannon Master for His Grace the Duke of Rutland, firing the cannons at Belvoir Castle on the exact hour of our Chapel Service.

The Virtual Service remains accessible from the Chapel website (www.falklands-chapel.org.uk) and on the Pangbourne TV platform on You Tube. Readers may also like to know that the Chapel website is now under new management and will be regularly updated with news and photographs.

Challenging times for the Reverend 'Farmer David'

Chapel Trustee and former 2 Para Chaplain in 1982, Revd David Cooper lives in the wilds of West Somerset where he farms with his partner Jo and their dogs: Wolfhound Jade and Dachshund Alice. We invited him to give us a brief glimpse into their 'Covid world'. In his own words...

'There's no water in the troughs in the top fields!'

Such was my first day of lockdown on the farm. The water is pumped from a bore hole to a small reservoir at the highest point of the farm and flows, under gravity, to supply the house and farm troughs. No water in the higher troughs meant that we had a leak somewhere in the pipes that serviced the 100 acres, or the pump was failing. A quick check showed the pump was fine, so the water was escaping somewhere in the pipe system in the fields.

The problem was that there was no up to date farm map showing where the various pipe runs were.

Whilst pondering the problem and the amount of speculative digging to find the leak that was to occupy my lockdown, and trying to foresee the difficulties lockdown presented to a veteran's impending funeral, plus a wedding for another due in a month, two more problems arose: the washing machine had been on the same cycle for the past hour and a half, showing no sign of completing

its task and, in sympathy, the dishwasher had decided to retire from any form of washing. And then...just as I was lying on the floor peering into the washing machine pump system, the plaintive request came as it might to a drowning man to admire an approaching shark: 'Can you look at the Land Rover, the clutch doesn't seem to be working properly?'



Jade & Alice - best friends

If this was what lockdown was going to bring, then the sooner normality returned, the better! It did, however, allow me time to attend to these things!

After reducing much of our fields to a replica of the set of the film '1917', the leaks (yes, two of them) were repaired.

The Land Rover now runs, though the clutch cylinder needs watching and the occasional top up.

What caused me more concern was the funeral and the wedding. The

logistics were nigh impossible since the former was in the Southeast, far from Somerset, and the latter, in France. In the case of the funeral, the uncertainty of the indefinite closure of crematoria and the limitations on numbers of permitted mourners, ensured a very unhappy and testing time for the family and friends. I was able to find a local clergyman to take

the service when the crematorium re-opened, albeit with limitations. I offered to conduct a memorial service when circumstances permitted. We still await the circumstances that will permit that service.

At the time of writing, the wedding is postponed indefinitely to be held in London, not France, where the bride's family live. Again, the numbers permitted to attend will be limited.

Both these events underline just how far reaching the effect of the virus has been. At the most personal levels, and in major life events, the impact has been felt.

In it all I took great encouragement from the example of Captain, Sir Tom. The interviews I heard with

him were optimistic, encouraging and positive. He could so easily have become pessimistic. He didn't, and his courage was infectious. I took courage from his attitude and the belief that we will see our way through the changes in our way of life. It is perhaps significant that the light in the darkness of the lockdown was lit by a 100 year old ex-serviceman.



'Farmer David'



April Fool Club Members 'Yomping' in the Falklands



Graeme Gault

Thank you AFC!

In recent years, Graeme Gault former RAF Wing Commander and C130 pilot, and his friends in the April Fool Club (AFC) have become valued and enthusiastic supporters of the FIMCT. We applaud their £2,000 contribution to the Scots Guards appeal and thank them wholeheartedly for supporting our Chapel.

Recently the Club invited Chapel Trustee, Reverend David Cooper, to deliver a ZOOM talk about his experiences during the 1982 conflict, thereby raising an additional £215 for the FIMCT.

The Club's first major fundraising project was a 125km 'yomp' across the Falkland Islands, in February 2015, travelling from San Carlos Bay to Port Stanley to honour those who made this journey into battle in 1982; this raised over £200,000 for the RAF Benevolent

Fund. Their 2015 experience has cemented the Falkland Islands, and the events of 1982, as a fundamental part of AFC history, and several of their number have joined the FIMCT as 'Friends'.

Founded in 2007, the AFC comprises a collection of like-minded individuals with a common interest in aviation, philanthropy and supporting the military. With over 80 members from as far afield as Hong Kong, the USA, and the Caribbean, they are both serving and former members of the military, as well as successful business leaders. Members share a passion for the RAF, and indeed all three branches of UK's Armed Forces, and actively support 'the incredible charities' which benefit those who have served, or are serving, their country.

Two new ways to support the Chapel

Thanks to a suggestion from AFC supporters, the FIMCT is now visible on Just Giving and can receive donations plus Gift Aid from this source. This does not replace any of the normal ways in which our supporters like to give to the Chapel; it is simply a preference for very busy people or someone who is doing a sponsored event for the Chapel.

We have enrolled onto the AMAZON SMILE charities list which enables anyone who buys anything on Amazon to nominate FIMCT as 'their charity' to benefit from a 0.5% donation on each purchase. This does not add cost to the purchase price of the item.

If you have questions: email angelaep@aol.com.

THANK YOU!



VETERANS AND FAMILIES IN LOCKDOWN

Editor's Note

You will notice that this newsletter is very different from usual! Looking at the positives of the 'boat that we are all sailing in', it has allowed me to make contact with so many of you who have been kind enough to tell me about 'your life in this unprecedented pandemic' and I wish, in a way, that I had more than 8 pages to fill!

There is so much more to say.... It has been a real tonic to hear what you have been doing to keep spirits up and to serve your local communities.

The following pages give us all a glimpse of the fortitude and kindness demonstrated in your stories. We can only hope that the 'demon that surrounds us' will subside in 2021 and the Chapel family can be reunited.

It's music to our ears

Life in Northern Ireland has been predictably challenging for Keith (Paddy the Piper) and Valerie Burton but, like so many of us, they have used the time to sharpen up familiar skills and learn new ones. Valerie has concentrated on her crochet and knitting, and Paddy has developed his mandolin skills for outdoor traditional music sessions while the warm weather persisted.

"Walking with the wounded have funded a pipe band here for Veterans called Mind the Pipes and Drums ...only been going about two months but a good turn out so far and whilst my mobility hinders my marching with the band, I can certainly get involved with tuition".

Paddy has added a 'new toy' to his repertoire of instruments to help him through the winter months. Our photo gives you the answer...



Paddy with his 'new toy'

Keeping Standards High

For as long as I can remember, veteran Grenadier Guardsman, Richard Orme, has attended virtually every June Annual Service to bear a Standard, either from his local Royal British Legion or, on special occasions, the Union Flag.

In his working life, for the South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECAMB), he carries the Ambulance Service colours for ceremonial occasions, as well as being a Key Worker on the front line. Over past months, during the 'invisible war' on Covid 19, as he calls it, the vivid and troubling memories of losing so many friends, in both the Welsh and Scots Guards in 1982, have come flowing back. All the more distressing for him now is the loss of so many 'fit and healthy' ex Service clinicians who joined the NHS Ambulance Services, post war, and who have now

fallen victim to the current enemy. For Richard, and so many, the scourge of 2020 has been an unpleasant experience, and will change lives forever.

"I will continue to hold my head high," he says, "and keep praying that all our clinicians will survive to return home safely. I will continue to honour those, past and present, as long as I am able."



Richard with Colonel (Rtd) Philip Astle
CEO SECAMB Ambulance Service

Proud to serve again!

Former Royal Marine, Dee Wright, never expected to be wearing green again after leaving the Royal Marines in 1989, and having served in 45 Commando in 1982. However, the Global Pandemic presented her and her partner, Katie, with a very different kind of war and a green protective uniform.

In 2018, after 13 years with a parcel delivery firm, Dee enrolled as an Ambulance Care Assistant with the NHS South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) and quickly graduated to become a key frontline worker. This challenging role that she had trained hard for included attending RTC's, cardiac arrests, elderly fall patients and new-born babies. Katie, after serving 12 years in the RAF, had followed her to SCAS, and works in a separate unit. Then the pandemic arrived and the challenges escalated.

"We had to adapt quickly to a fast changing situation, and the hospitals have managed incredibly well considering such an unprecedented situation," says Dee. "Treating and looking after patients is a great privilege and is something that Katie and I never thought that we could achieve. We are both extremely proud to be serving our community once again."



Dee protected for action



Smokey Cole gives lunch to
Trevor Wood HMS Glamorgan



Delivering with fellow veterans

Gosport Veterans busy in the Community

Gosport and Fareham veterans took time out on several Sundays and VJ day during lockdown, with other members of Hermes Masonic Lodge to deliver lunches and cream tea to Lodge widows and vulnerable members of the lodge.

The lunches were supplied by the Anglesey Hotel in Gosport, owned

by veteran Ray Bezani who served in HMS Invincible in 1982.

Veterans involved were: Smokey Cole HMS Intrepid, Jed Dymond HMS Newcastle, Mike Izzard HMS Fearless, Tony Rowan HM Submarine Onyx, Mick Dilucia HMS Coventry and David Buttriss HMS Birmingham



Dee and Katie: NHS workers

VETERANS AND FAMILIES IN LOCKDOWN

Crestfallen? Not a bit of it...

Chatting to veteran Mark Smith (HMS Hermes), as I was during the summer of 2020, I envisaged an amusing cameo of a kitchen table laden with mess, a splattered oven, and a singularly unamused wife (Fiona). Mark Smith was certainly keeping himself, and Fiona, busy during 'lockdown'. I was intrigued...

"Over the last 18 months or so I have been volunteering in Boathouse 4 in Portsmouth Dockyard, mainly involved with a project to make a coastal motor boat, the first wooden boat to be built in Portsmouth Dockyard in the last 60 years," Mark told me.

"In addition to that, I have been helping collate the Dockyard's Naval Ships Archive of Crests which number at least 5,000 from across the world."

But what has this to do with a kitchen table?

Mark's archive search drew him to focus on crests from Royal Navy ships, and among them, the HMS Hermes crest (he is now Chairman of the HMS Hermes Association). Due to the expense of such crests, he decided to set about reproducing copies of the originals for eventual sale in Boathouse 4, post lockdown. He brought a variety of crests home, which was the point when Fiona's

kitchen table morphed into Mark's messy work station.

The making and decorating of ships' crests is pretty involved but Mark has got the intricate work down to a fine art. Our photos show some of the stages and the finished product.

Mark and I also discussed the way in which he, as Chairman of the HMS Hermes Association, has been keeping in touch with members during 'lockdown'.

"We held our April 2020 Reunion on Zoom," he explained, "and as we all got more proficient at it, we started having a regular Hermes quiz night on Mondays. We also sent out a link to the 14th June 'virtual' Service at the Chapel, and received a lot of positive feedback, particularly from the 70 to 75 year olds, about the 'new era' of live streaming. It would be great if you could do that every year for those unable to attend through illness or disability," he added.

I know that the Trustees and College are already on that case. I am also pleased to report that, since the start of his crest making project, Mark has built himself a 'man shed' and peace and order have been restored to Fiona's kitchen at the Smith residence.



Mix and Pour...



Cooked!



Now paint it!



Happy result!

The Calm before the Storm



The last family 'get together' to celebrate Alison's 60th on 1st March just in time before 'lock-down'

Life in lock-down for Primary School Teaching Assistant, Alison Mundy-Gill, and husband Steve had a peaceful ring to it until last September that is, when 270 children aged 4-11 returned to school. Alison's twin brother, Ian P Hall, a Weapons Engineering Officer, lost his life on board HMS Coventry in 1982 aged 22, and she and her family, her elder sister Susan and their mother, Iris Hall, have been regular visitors to the Chapel for many a year. Sadly, Iris is no longer with them having passed away 6 years ago.

Alison (60 in early March when they managed the 'last family gathering') told me about 'school life with Covid 19' in Misterton, South Yorkshire :

"All the children are back! We are in class bubbles including a teacher and teaching assistant. Children and staff cannot mix across bubbles. We have a staggered start and finish time for each class as well as break and lunch times. The playground is segregated into three areas so that bubbles don't mix. Hand sanitisers are everywhere and used on entering and exiting buildings. The children hand wash during register and after break times, before and after eating lunch."

I asked Alison what it was like, teaching under such difficult circumstances.

"Teaching is hard as we cannot be too close to the children for very long. We have a taped off

area that children cannot cross and if we go into their space we mask up. Lunches are eaten in classrooms and the school dinners are delivered. All assemblies are on Zoom. I have not seen many of my colleagues, other than 'on screen' since March – it's all very odd. You can imagine it is not ideal, however the children are becoming more resilient as we adjust. Even though everything is very different, we are all doing our best in these challenging times."

Alison's daughter, Tayla, 24, is a Primary School Teacher in a much larger environment in Nottingham where she is experiencing similar challenges, and her son Jordan, 27, is in marketing with Taylor Wimpey, working from home near Reading.

One has to wonder what effect all this will have on the younger generation when life eventually returns to 'old normal'!



R-L Alison with daughter Tayla, husband Steve and son Jordan at Tayla's Graduation Day



Smokey Cole pays tribute to the Fallen in Falklands Gardens, Gosport, on 11.11.2020

VETERANS AND FAMILIES IN LOCKDOWN

Jane does her bit for the NHS and RBL

Birmingham-based Jane Mellor is the sister of Captain G John Hamilton, MC, 22nd SAS Regiment / Green Howards in 1982. The NHS have been making good use of her skills during the pandemic, and as a member of the local RBL, she has been contributing to their important work in the community.

"I am a CT/MRI Radiographer working at Spire Little Aston in Sutton Coldfield. Contrary to some people's perception, we have not been sitting around doing nothing!" Jane tells us. "The NHS took over all the Private Hospitals and we have been providing theatre time for essential operations to two local trusts. In Imaging we are running full lists of NHS patients, mostly oncology patients, many of whom have had their scans delayed because of the virus. The impact on these patients has been huge

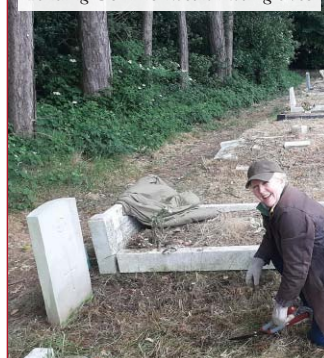
and they are all so thrilled that they are able to have the scans they need to see if treatments have worked. Some have been waiting months at their own trusts. It makes me feel very proud that we have been able to help in this small way as I know the psychological impact any delay in the pathway of treatment must be having on these patients. It's tough times, but hopefully there is a glimmer of light on the horizon!"

One of the tasks in which Jane was involved with her local Royal British Legion friends was spending a weekend tidying up six Commonwealth War Graves at the local cemetery in Aldridge. Our picture shows how much work they have taken on with this ongoing project! The RBL group have also maintained regular contact with older members who may be lonely or isolated.

Jane Mellor - kitted up for work



Tending Commonwealth war graves



Remembering the six: Foxtrot 4

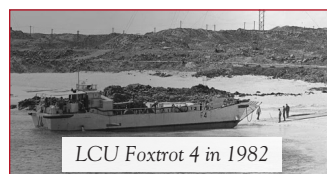
A 'virtual' Memorial Service in honour of the six crew members of LCU FOXTROT FOUR killed in action on 8th June 1982 was recorded on an LCU (Landing Craft Utility), and orchestrated by HMS Albion OC Lieutenant Colonel Richard Thurstan RM and his team. On 8th June 2020 the video of the Service was streamed through You Tube and the 'F4 Remembered' Facebook sites and watched by many HMS Fearless veterans and families.

This truly moving Service of Remembrance, was led by HMS Albion's Chaplain, Padre Janice Honey-Morgan, with contributions from many of the crew members. The Order of Service included Families' readings from Mrs Mandy Kazmierski, sister of Mne Robert Griffin, and Mr Bryan Miller, brother of LMEM David 'Dusty' Miller. Sgt Gavin Smith RM delivered a reading of CSgt Johnston's QGM citation which was followed by a few words from Mr Bill Parry (a retired RN WO (Warfare)). This was

especially poignant since Bill was only 18 years old on his first draft, in HMS Antelope, when she was bombed and then set alight. He remembers clearly the actions of LCU F4 and remains truly grateful to them for their incredible rescue of the crew of the stricken ship. Only quite recently did he become aware that F4 had been sunk and the six men lost.

A bugler played the Last Post and Reveille and the one minute's silence was filled with photos of the six crewmen who lost their lives. After the Padre's Blessing, one of Albion's Officers of the Watch, Lt Tom Dawkins RN, sang the Naval Hymn whilst images of F4 were shown, including what Colonel Thurstan believes might be one of the last photos taken of her, by a crewman on LCU F1, on the morning of 8th Jun '82.

Our thanks to Captain John Kelly (HMS Fearless) and to Colonel Thurstan for this insight into the HMS Fearless/Landing Craft F4 Service of Remembrance, and for supplying the photographs.



LCU Foxtrot 4 in 1982



Capt Peter Laughton MBE RN



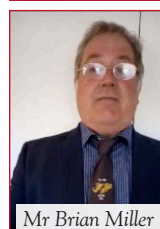
HMS Fearless



Lt Col. Richard Thurstan RM



Mrs Mandy Kazmierski

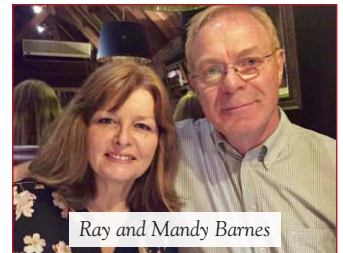


Mr Brian Miller



Mr Bill Parry

A Moving Story



Ray and Mandy Barnes

Moving home during lock-down was no mean feat for Ray and Mandy Barnes. Having put their Hampshire home on the market in 2019, they secured a sale in February 2020, just as lock-down loomed on the horizon! Undeterred they started packing but the job was made even more difficult because everywhere was closed for the deposit of unwanted items, and there was no clue as to when they might be allowed to move. Finally in June 2020 it happened, albeit with complications!

"First we thought completion wouldn't go ahead in time on our new home in Christchurch and we could be homeless! Luckily our solicitors pulled out all the stops and we just got the keys in time," said Mandy, whose brother Lance Corporal Pat Giffin, 3 Commando Brigade, Air Squadron RM lost his life in 1982.

"Our possessions arrived two days later," she added, "but forward thinking had made me pack a kettle, two mugs and tea bags in our car!"

Now happily settled in their new home, Ray and Mandy can walk to the Christchurch Priory Memorial Garden where there is a stone dedicated to Mandy's brother, Pat. (Pictured)

"Pat was buried at sea from SS Canberra and, following a Service for him in June 1982, the vicar's pew collection was such that he offered Pat's widow Sue, and my parents, Frank and Eva, a memorial stone by the Mill Stream in the church grounds". Says Mandy. "Our granddaughter, Rose, who sponsored a window in the Chapel for her uncle Pat, will be moving here soon with her parents. It will be lovely when we are all here together."



The stone 'In Mem' Pat Giffin RM

OUTREACH AND SUPPORT IN 2020

A life-saving gift for Stanley Hospital

On 20th March 2020, Chief Executive Derek 'Smokey' Cole, together with the Chairman and Trustees of the Falklands Veterans Foundation (FVF), found themselves having to make the harrowing decision to close Liberty Lodge in Stanley due to the pandemic. As many as 131 Veterans and Next of Kin would miss out on their 2020 pilgrimages to the Islands.

So 'Smokey' came up with the idea of offering Liberty Lodge to Stanley Hospital (KEMH) as an overflow or respite centre if the pandemic took hold. With the blessing of the FVF Board, the offer was enthusiastically accepted by KEMH, and within a week they had moved their long term patients into the facility.

David O'Neill, Director of Health and Social Services at KEMH told us: "As we were wondering how to cope with all the unknown circumstances of the growing pandemic, we were contacted by Ali Dodd (Manager of Liberty Lodge) asking if Liberty Lodge could be of any help in our plans. What a wonderful offer! It would allow us to move our 'long-term' and elderly patient residents out of harm's way, should COVID cases need to be admitted to the hospital; in addition it would release space in the ward area for ill patients."

As a result, explains Mr O'Neill, the residents are much happier, and generally more alert, and responsive to their new surroundings.



Loretta Webb, the Manager of a team of ten nursing staff, told us:

"From Day 1, our residents have thrived at Liberty Lodge; quickly referring to it as home. They are spending time together in the communal lounge and looking out at the stunning views over the harbour. This stimulation has worked wonders; for example, one resident was starting to speak and communicate with others which he couldn't in the hospital. We have the oldest lady (98) in the Islands under our care; she loves to wave at people walking past, is able to complete copious amounts of crosswords and sits down to eat meals with staff. We have strived to make Liberty Lodge a home for the residents and with the help of 10 nursing staff, we have succeeded. It makes us proud to see our residents happy. Thank you, Falklands Veterans Foundation, for loaning us Liberty Lodge and giving the residents a second chance."



The HMS GLAMORGAN service was streamed live by FITV from Hookers Point near Stanley on Friday 12th June 2020 with 50 people only attending since Stanley was in lockdown. Over 100 viewed it virtually on Facebook most of whom were GLAMORGANs.

From little acorns, a nationwide lifeline was born

We've been in touch with Ann Townsend whose son, Private Neil Grose, 3 Para, was tragically killed on his 18th birthday in 1982. Ann is a Chapel Friend and, with her husband George, has for many years brought her family to our Annual Services. In 2007 whilst on a pilgrimage to the Falklands, she met Joe Erskine, Dr Morgan O'Connell and David Watts and together they resolved to start up the Veterans Outreach Support (VOS) 'Drop-in' centre in Portsmouth. On 'day one' - Wednesday 4th July 2008 - four veterans came through the door for some help and a 'cuppa'. Today VOS has registered over 1,800 service users, and Ann, Joe, Morgan and David are all Life Vice Presidents and remain involved, helping out when they can. VOS is a very good example of a life-enhancing service for veterans, so we asked its CEO, Cdr (Rtd) Ian Millen (HMS Antrim in 1982) to tell us more. He writes...



own team of clinical professionals, who provide mental health and addiction support to those who need it. Run and supported by many veterans, teamwork, collaboration and camaraderie are at the heart of the charity's success, with 40+ highly professional delivery partners and over 30 dedicated volunteers. Outside of monthly Drop-Ins, VOS also combats loneliness and social isolation through a programme of group activities and gatherings, ranging from creative workshops and outdoor visits to social groups, where like-minded veterans and their partners can enjoy a cuppa and a chat in good company.

"VOS is an award-winning charity, providing relaxed settings where UK veterans and family members can drop in for confidential, social or psychological support. VOS serves those who have served their nation and, in recognition of its Falklands-related origins, welcome members of all three services of the British Armed Forces and Reserves, the RFA and the Merchant Navy. VOS became a charity in 2013 and was a proud recipient of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2017. The charity meets the welfare, wellbeing and mental health needs of veterans, and extends its outreach throughout the UK. At its Drop-In centres, based in Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, the charity brings together the public, private and charity sectors in a supportive 'one-stop shop', providing general welfare support, from legal, housing, financial and employment help from experienced third sector welfare agencies, such as SSAFA and the Royal British Legion, to wellbeing support from activity-based providers. VOS also has its



VOS is known for its personal, face to face approach, so the Coronavirus Lockdown has come as a shock for the charity and those it serves. The good news is that the same flexibility and 'will to win' that is ingrained in our armed forces, along with generous support from our donors, has meant we have found new ways of working, including online and on the telephone. We support veterans and their families just as we always have, albeit in different ways. We look forward to returning to the brews, the banter, the laughter and the friendly gatherings that have been our hallmark since 2008."

To contact VOS: 023 973 1767 (75-80 Queen Street, Portsmouth PO1 3HS)

www.vosuk.org

www.facebook.com/veteransoutreachsupport



BOOKS AND INFORMATION

Too little has been told about the defence of the Falklands at the time of the initial Argentinian landings in April 1982. This volume devotes the majority of its story to that defence. It is written by the commanding officer of Naval Party 8901, the Royal Marines detachment on the Islands, who had arrived for his year's deployment on the evening of 29 March, 72 hours before the Argentinians.

Major Mike Norman was placed in an impossible position by the lacklustre performance of both the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign Office. Norman is not just critical of them, but, quoting chapter and verse, shows how poorly they served the nation, and the Falkland Islanders in particular: an underestimation of the likely Argentinian actions, a failure to support the Royal Marines detachment with arms and munitions, a commitment to defence cuts called for by the Treasury, rather than by a rational assessment of risks and commitments, exemplified by the decision to decommission HMS Endurance. To those on the spot, these were foolhardy in the extreme, but Norman in his briefings at both ministries was fobbed off with excuses and a lack of effective direction. It makes for difficult reading at times as his exasperation shines through. This amateurishness of government is contrasted with the professionalism of the Royal Marines.

The total lack of understanding in London is shown by the feeling of betrayal when they returned to London. Rather than wait for accurate information as to what had actually happened, the press took the word of the Argentinians that they had had an easy victory. Consider the facts: 65 Royal Marines, and a few Falkland Island Defence Forces, against over 700 Argentinian regular Army and special forces, backed by naval gunfire, armoured vehicles and

ground aircraft. Those Royal Marines were willing to lay down their lives to defend the sovereignty of the Falklands, and only ceased fighting when ordered, so as to avoid loss of life, both military and civilian. In their resistance they had badly damaged an Argentinian vessel (surely the only occasion a naval ship has been damaged by an anti-tank round) and killed at least 5 and wounded at least 25 of their enemy. Amazingly they suffered no casualties of their own, a tribute to their abilities. As Wavell remarked to Churchill "A big butchers' bill is no indication of good generalship!" Scandalously, no awards for bravery were allowed, although the troop leader on South Georgia, part of Naval Party 8901, was deservedly awarded a D.S.C.

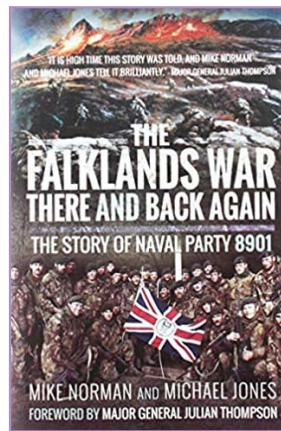
Despite initial reluctance within the MoD (how typical one may think), the returned Royal Marines volunteered to a man to return to the Falklands as part of the Task Force, and became part of J Company 42 Commando, which

by Robin Brodhurst
Chapel Librarian

The Falklands War; There and Back Again The Story of Naval Party 8901

By Mike Norman and Michael Jones
Published by Pen & Sword £25

Foreword by Major General Julian Thompson
230 pages, 32 black and white photos, 5 maps, index, bibliography



was commanded by the author. In his account of the campaign he brings out excellently the Arctic conditions they encountered and again the professionalism of the Marines shines through. Symbolically, it was this group who raised the flag at Government House on 16 June.

Little more needs to be added. This volume represents the Royal Marines at their best: experts in what they do, tough and professional, yet human, humorous and even earthy. Their commitment to each other comes across time and again, both in what the authors write, and in the numerous quotations from other members of Naval Party 8901. It is this worm's eye view of the campaign that brings the story to life in a way that the lofty political view usually fails to do. Major Norman and Michael Jones have asked some difficult questions of what went on in government circles before April 1982 and I would guess that many of the survivors from those circles will find this book uncomfortable reading. They should.

Annual Service 2021 SUNDAY 13TH JUNE

Ever hopeful that it will go ahead, the 2021 Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will take place on Sunday 13th 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! There will be a train collection and return service at 11.00 from Reading Station.

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.

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 unaccompanied. In these circumstances, it may be possible to assist using funds set aside for this purpose (see the enclosed leaflet). Applications will be treated with the utmost confidence.

FIMCT website:

Over past months we have made changes to our website management www.falklands-chapel.org.uk and are now able to keep it much more up to date. We will always welcome your suggestions if you would like to get in touch.

Date for your diary! 40th Anniversary Annual Service: Sunday 12th June 2022.

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