



FALKLAND ISLANDS MEMORIAL CHAPEL NEWSLETTER

2023



A Tribute To Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd

The passing of Her Majesty the Queen on 8th September was of particular sadness to all of us within the Chapel community; she had officially opened the Chapel in 2000 and subsequently re-visited the site on several occasions. Of particular significance were her visits for the 25th Anniversary Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in 2007 and for the College Centenary in 2017, accompanied by

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh on one of his last official forays. As we reflect on her remarkable reign with gratitude for the example she set for us all, we also remember her unwavering commitment and support of our Armed Forces, in particular that given to the Falklands Task Force in 1982. Her Majesty will be deeply missed by us all, and now we offer our best wishes for the future to her son, King Charles III.



Chairman's Letter

In the past year, it has been encouraging to see how much attention has been paid to the events of 1982, thereby remembering the tragic losses suffered by so many families and the life-changing experiences that so many of us encountered 40 years ago in the South Atlantic. All of this was against a backdrop of a retreating pandemic and a universal desire to return to some kind of normality. It was therefore with much rejoicing that a congregation of almost 1,000 of us, with HRH the Duke of Kent as our Royal Guest, gathered in the Memorial Chapel on Sunday 12th June 2022 for the 40th Anniversary Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving. Lunch afterwards was held in the largest marquee I have ever seen (see report pages 4, 5 & 6), and it was so good to be able to meet in such large numbers and to renew acquaintances

after such a long period of 'limbo'. We have packed a great deal into this issue of the Newsletter, including: how we managed to prepare the Chapel ready for the 'big day'; cataloguing (and appreciating!) the enduring generosity of our Chapel supporters; news from the Falklands, featuring some of the 'runners and riders' who have included the Chapel in their fundraising journeys; a refreshed Memorial Garden; reviews of some new books; and saying 'goodbye' to Trustee of 22 years, Major General Alastair Bruce, and 'hello' to a new Trustee, Commander Mark Hamilton Royal Navy. Finally, I should add that our 2023 Annual Service will be held on Sunday 11th June (see page 11) to which you are, as always, all very welcome. My thanks to all of you for your continuing support for the Chapel

Major General Jeff Mason
Chairman of the Trustees

Alastair Bruce retires after 22 years

After 22 years as a Chapel Trustee, Major General Alastair Bruce OBE KStJ VR DL has retired. On 12th June, Chairman Jeff Mason was able to tell the assembled veterans and families something of his huge contribution over many years. "Alastair is a man of creative

ideas" said General Jeff. "He conceived the 'Stones from Home' project, where families and visitors were invited to bring a memorial stone to the Chapel, and over time so many were brought that the Cairn was built and 'topped off' by Her Majesty the Queen in 2007. He also suggested providing

the tented nave for anniversaries so that no one need be turned away. He was always 'brimming' with ideas and we shall miss him. We thank him wholeheartedly for all that he has done."

General Bruce is Governor of Edinburgh Castle and Sky TV's Royal Commentator.



Trustees Welcome New Trustee

At their AGM in September 2022, the Trustees agreed the appointment of Commander Mark Hamilton Royal Navy to the Board

of Trustees. Warmly welcoming him 'on board', Chairman Major General Jeff Mason said: "We are keen now to engage with

the next generation of Trustees who will help keep us abreast of a changing world and enable the Chapel to connect with the generations to come. Commander Hamilton is an excellent start!"

On being asked why he wished to become a Chapel Trustee, Commander Hamilton said:

"There are some very good reasons why I wanted to become involved with the Memorial Chapel. Firstly, I attended Pangbourne College as a cadet, between 1988 and 1993, when the concept of a memorial chapel in its grounds was first mooted. I subsequently joined the Royal Navy in 1998, as a Marine Engineer Officer, and have twice deployed to the Falkland Islands. An even stronger connection is that my father was the Marine Engineer Officer on board HMS COVENTRY, and thankfully he returned safely to the UK, on 11 June 1982, following her sinking. Having completed my final sea assignment, on board HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, I



PRAYER FOR THE YEAR by Reverend Neil Jeffers

Length of days does not
profit me

Except the days are passed
in your presence, O God.

Give me a grace that
precedes, follows, guides,
sustains,

Sanctifies, aids every hour,

That I might not be one
moment apart from You

But may rely on Your 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 Your praise,

Testify your love

And advance your 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

am now keen to embark on new challenges where I have a strong connection. I am delighted to have been accepted as a Trustee to the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, a position I take up with immense pride. "

Commander Hamilton has been selected for promotion to Captain and will take up his new role as the Capital Ships Strategic Class Authority Team Leader, based in Abbey Wood, Bristol on 30th January 2023.

Gus Hales' 40th Anniversary Cycle Ride

On Sunday 12th June at 0930, veteran Gus Hales and his team cycled onto the Chapel campus and headed for the Cairn for a short Service of Prayer and Remembrance led by Rev. David Cooper. The team was taking part in an eight day ride visiting memorials and landmarks, culminating in Aldershot with stops at the statue of the Airborne

Soldier and at the Falkland Graves in the Military Cemetery.

"Many thanks to you all at Pangbourne for your support of our ride and Reverend Cooper's Blessing for it" said Gus after it was over, adding "it was an epic experience, incident free and full of comradeship and compassion. Amazing!"



A Flying Visit

On their charity run from the National Memorial Arboretum to London via Aldershot in May, Major Bob Darby and his friend Rachel Webster, a former Captain in the Royal Military Police (pictured), dropped in at the Falklands Chapel to pay their respects and lay a wreath in the Memorial Garden. They were aiming to raise £10,000 (to be doubled by Rachel's employer) in aid of the Not Forgotten Association and the Royal Hospital Chelsea. In the event a phenomenal donation of £21,256 was achieved to be split between the two charities. Congratulations Bob and Rachel!



Paul Hailwood Rides in memory of brother Chris

Paul Hailwood's story in his own words.....

"Thank you to everyone at the Falklands Chapel for their generosity and support of my charity challenge in aid of Combat Stress. On 8th June my 160 mile circular cycle ride included Falklands War Memorials at Marchwood, Pangbourne, Old Portsmouth, and Lee-on-the-Solent. At each I laid a small cross for my brother Chris who was lost on RFA Sir Galahad, 40 years to the day. At the time I was on the other side of the Islands in San Carlos Water serving on RFA OLNA as a 19 year old Deck Cadet.'

'It was a long day starting at 04:00, avoiding the busy traffic and heading through Southampton to Marchwood then turning north to Pangbourne. My son and his girlfriend surprised me 'en route' and joined in for the leg from Whitchurch to Pangbourne. It was good to get to the chapel about midday and have my first proper rest.



The chapel provided the perfect place to pay my respects and to reflect on the life-changing events of 40 years ago. After a good lunch it was a push back into Hampshire and the toughest section climbing over the South Downs. Once that was achieved it was plain sailing to Old Portsmouth and finally Lee-on-the-Solent, arriving at 21:30, where my lovely wife Janet was waiting to scoop me up.'

'Due to the incredible kindness of my ride sponsors, a total of £2,482 was raised for Combat Stress. I was even interviewed on BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine show which was a massive way to raise awareness of the work of the charity. It was a big challenge for me, but nothing compared to those who lost their lives and those who still struggle with mental health issues today. Thank you all for helping me to do something positive on this 40 year anniversary of the Falklands War'.



40TH ANNIVERSARY DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

A Truly Wonderful Day - 12th June 2022

40 years after the events in the South Atlantic, the memories for those involved and for the families who lost sons, husbands and brothers remained as clear as the chimes of a ship's bell when a gathering of a thousand worshipped together in the Falklands Islands Memorial Chapel on Sunday 12th June. The 40th Anniversary Service, which had taken months of careful preparation by the Chapel Trustees and College team, was one of the major events that took place throughout the UK during June 2022 to commemorate the lives and sacrifice of the 255 Servicemen and 3 civilians who were lost when the British Task Force sailed South to regain the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands for its grateful inhabitants.

The Chapel Chairman and Trustees were pleased to welcome His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent as Guest of Honour; also present were Mr James Puxley the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, accompanied by his wife, Mrs Deborah Puxley, and Admiral Lord West, President of the Chapel Trust. Branches of the military were represented by senior officers, including Admiral Sir Philip Jones, for the 1st Sea Lord, Air Chief Marshal Sir Andy Pulford, for the Chief of the Air Staff, Major General Alastair Bruce, for the Chief of the General Staff and Chapel Chairman Major General Jeff Mason for the Commandant Royal Marines. Vivien Foster OBE was present to represent the Merchant Navy Association, and MLA Roger Spink and his partner Helena represented the Falkland Islands Government Legislative Assembly, accompanied by UK representative Richard Hyslop and his wife, Venetia. The 12th June being the anniversary upon which HMS Glamorgan was hit by an enemy Exocet, Admiral Sir Ian Forbes KCB CBE was invited to perform the Act of Remembrance. For the first time, there were two Bishops in attendance: The Right Reverend Hugh Nelson, Bishop to the

Armed Forces, was joined by his Roman Catholic counterpart, The Right Reverend Paul Mason. Bishop Hugh delivered a fitting Address (*), based on the importance of Remembrance and "how by understanding and learning from the past, we can live wisely today and into the future". Bishop Paul led the intercessions. Superb music was provided by the Pangbourne Choir, joined by the Ensemble of the Band of the Royal Marines.

The Chapel played host to an extra 400 guests, made possible by the provision of a tented nave attached to its main entrance. Never before had the College catered for so many in what was the largest marquee that many of us had ever seen! But they did, superbly well, and it proved to be a most memorable occasion, with plaudits received from numerous attendees. The marquee was arranged with banks of flag decorated tables and many of the reunion groups reserved space so that their associated families would be able to sit with them. These arrangements worked well, and many attendees were happily reunited with people they had not seen in years. The camaraderie was palpable, and the vision was uplifting. As Commander Alan Watt (HMS GLAMORGAN '82 Association) commented afterwards: "We had an amazing bonus for GLAMORGAN when, unexpectedly, the family of Brian Hinge spotted us and

joined us for lunch; we are so pleased that they found us because we had not met before."

Addressing the assembled during lunch, Trust Chairman Major General Jeff Mason announced two retirements: that of Trustee, Major General Alastair Bruce OBE, after 22 years, and that of 'Paddy the Piper' Keith Burton RM who has faithfully piped the Lament at every Annual Service for the past 12 years. He also paid tribute to Sadie Clare, retired Flower Guild Chairman, and her volunteer helpers Sue Hollebone and Richard Stone.

General Mason went on to say how pleased he was to see so many families, and veteran reunions at the Chapel again. He thanked the Headmaster, Thomas Garnier, the Chaplain and the College team for their

excellent organisation of the day, in support of the Chapel Secretary. He thanked those founder benefactors present who had helped raise funds to build the Chapel, all those years ago, including Sir John Madejski, Freddie Forsyth, and Lord Sterling. Finally, he observed that "we have been able to stage this huge anniversary event only due to the supreme generosity of many Falkland Islands companies, and connected to the Islands, who responded generously to Trustee Sukey Cameron's call for help. Thank you to all of them".

* A full transcript of Bishop Hugh Nelson's inspiring Address is available from the Secretary, on request.



'Ossie' Osborn, Carl & Jakki Keeble, Jon Ellis & Andrew Shadbolt



Student Oscar Bartlett with Bob Walton & Joanna Hunt



Captain Chris Craig, Daphne Craig & Mrs Janet Booterstone



Richard Orme leads 14 Standard Bearers through the tented nave



CPO Alan 'Sharky' Ward - MEM in HMS Herald 1982



Family of Brian Easton with GLAMORGAN Wreath



Family of Brian Hinge with GLAMORGAN Wreath



'Paddy the Piper' pipes his heart out



Chairman presents 'Paddy' Keith Burton with a commemorative silver crach 'in thanks' for his excellent 'Piping' over more than a decade



Rt Rev. Bishop Paul Mason with Rev. Neil Jeffers



The two Bishops meet HRH

40TH ANNIVERSARY DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



Flower Guild 'Queen' Sadie Calre with General Jeff



Sue Hollebone, faithful Flower Guild volunteer, with General Jeff



Richard Stone, Flower Guild Treasurer, with General Jeff



Admiral Lord West greets the Lord Lieutenant



Members of the Scots Guards with their ladies



Veterans Karl Beck, Tommy Tucker, Foz Foxbury & Whiskey Walker



Magnificent marquee!



Brigadier Charles Page and Mrs Lucy Mason with HRH



3 BAS group incl Ossie Osborn, Nicci Pugh, Carol Cameron, Steve & Carol Jary



Sir John and Lady Garnier

After the Service, Trustee and former Equerry Brigadier Charles Page escorted His Royal Highness on a short tour; of particular interest were the bronze albatross sculptures beside the Chapel, sculpted by Mark Coreth who in 1982 was a Lieutenant in the Blues and Royals attached to the Scots Guards and heavily involved in the Battle of Mount Tumbledown. Then on to the Memorial Cairn, where HRH met retiring Trustee Major General Alastair Bruce OBE, and laid a special stone from the Falklands on the top of the Cairn; he explained that each stone represented an individual who was killed in the Falklands and that the Queen had 'topped off' the Memorial Cairn in 2007, marking 25 years since the war. The Royal party then moved on to the Memorial

Garden where the Duke was introduced to Trustee Rear Admiral Dick Melly who had overseen the programme to install memorial plaques designed and sponsored by many of the ships, units, regiments and battalions which had taken part in the Task Force to mark the Anniversary. Also presented to His Royal Highness was Trustee Sukey Cameron, formerly representative of the Falklands Government (UK), escorting a group of major donors and their wives including Mr Phil Bentley (MITIE), Mr Tom Swales (Stanley Services), Mr Saul Pitaluga (Colonel Equipment Finance), Mr Joost Pompert (Fortuna Ltd), Mr Howard Pullen (Howland & Partners), Commodore Adrian Bell (RN & RM Charity), Major General Tim Hyams CB OBE (ABF the Soldiers Charity) and Mr Freddie Forsyth.



HRH places a stone onto the Cairn in symbolic remembrance watched by Major General Alastair Bruce



Brigadier Page and Rear Admiral Dick Melly with HRH in the Memorial Garden



Brigadier Charles Page & Sukey Cameron with HRH

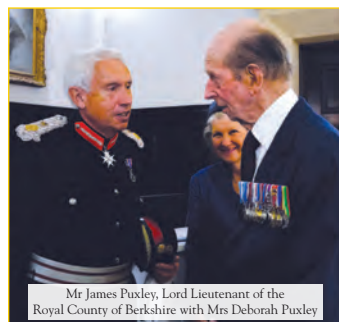


HRH admires a Bronze Albatross

40TH ANNIVERSARY

HRH meets bereaved families and veterans

Prior to the Service, HRH The Duke of Kent was introduced to The Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of the Falkland Islands Government and representatives of the veteran and family communities by Chapel Chairman, Major General Jeff Mason, accompanied by Chapel President, Admiral Lord West.



Mr James Puxley, Lord Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire with Mrs Deborah Puxley



MLA Roger Spink & Helen Shillitoe



MLA Roger Spink and Ms Helena Shillitoe with (foreground) Derek 'Smokey' Cole (HMS INTREPID in 1982) CEO Falklands Veteran Foundation & Vice Chair, SAMA '82



Mark Smith (HMS HERMES in 1982) Chairman HMS HERMES Association, and Ms Fiona Pritchard



Lt Colonel Ewan Lawrie OBE, Scots Guards in 1982, with Mrs Anne Lawrie and James Gillanders



Mrs Jane Mellor (Sister of Capt John Hamilton MC, 22nd SAS Regt) with (half-brother) Colonel Jules Greenwood.



Major Paul Moore (Royal Engineers in '82) with Mrs Lesley Moore



Lt Colonel David Redwood (2 Para/AAC) and Mrs Penny Redwood



Mr Jim Gillanders and Mrs Sarah Gillanders (Lawries in the background)



Stuart Leeming (Brother of Sgt Robert Leeming 45 Cdo Royal Marines) with Mrs Kay Leeming and Master Joshua Carder, grandson.



Mrs Sally Eyton-Jones (widow of Lt Cdr John Eyton-Jones RN Fleet Air Arm, HMS INVINCIBLE)



Mrs Patricia Scammell MBE (Widow Maj. Roger Nutbeam RAMC) with Richard Scammell and Christine Nickless



Mrs Anna Breen (daughter of Lt Cdr John Eyton-Jones, foreground)

Images courtesy of Peter Bloodworth Photography

Scots Guards Contribute to Chapel 40th Appeal

The Scots Guards raised a brilliant £2,242 for the Memorial Chapel at a Club Falklands dinner at the East India Club in London in April. The evening consisted of pre-dinner talks by the then Governor, HE Nigel Phillips by video, and MLA Leona Roberts, in person, plus Wayne Hanson, former 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. After dinner speeches included that of Chapel Trustee, Brigadier Charles Page MBE (ex-2SG) who covered the Scots Guards Battle for Mount Tumbledown in 1982. "This is a most significant donation towards our 40th Anniversary Appeal," said Brigadier Page. "The Chairman and my fellow Trustees are most grateful to everyone involved."



L-R: MLA Leona Roberts, (centre) Brigadier Charles Page, Wayne Hanson & James Kelly

40TH ANNIVERSARY VISITORS

29 Field Battery Group visits Chapel

On Saturday 19th November members of the 29 (Corunna) Field Battery Royal Artillery led by Major General Bill Moore CBE reunited at the Chapel for the dedication of the Battery plaque that they had sponsored in the Memorial Garden to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War. The dedication was conducted by Reverend Neil Jeffers after a short Act of Remembrance. General Moore tells us their story in his own words...

'29 (Corunna) Field Battery Royal Artillery was part of 4th Field Regiment stationed in Aldershot and mainly recruited from the Sunderland area. In 1982 the Battery supported the 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment (2 Para). On deployment, the battery would split into the Tac Group (which deployed as an integral part of 2 Para) and the Gun Group which would support 2 Para and other battalions as required.

The Battery was recalled from leave on 16 April and embarked on MV Norland with 2 Para on 26 April 1982. The Battery Commander – Tony Rice – flew to Ascension with CO 2 Para (H Jones) to enable planning. The MV Norland* joined the rest of the fleet at Ascension Island and the Battery deployed into San Carlos early on D Day on 21 May 1982. The Tac Group – Tony Rice, James Watson (A Company), Bob Ash (B Company) and Alan Bullock (D Company) and

their teams were embedded in 2 Para and fought with them in the battles for Goose Green and Wireless Ridge. In the former Tony took command of 2 Para when H Jones was killed and remained in charge until Chris Keeble was able to move to a position where he could effectively take over. Much of what they learned at Goose Green was put into practice to great effect on Wireless Ridge.

In the Gun Group, David Gibbins – the Battery 2IC – initially deployed with the guns and became a Forward Air Controller (as a battlefield casualty replacement) for the battles around Stanley. Bill Moore was the Gun Position Officer, and Tom Martin the Command Post Officer for the 6 Light Guns and 120 men. In the final battles the guns mainly supported 3 Para (Mount Longdon) and The Scots Guards (Tumbledown) where the Battery fired over 3,700 rounds. Their story is captured in Tom Martin's book "Falkland's Gunner" published in 2017**. All those in the photograph returned to the Falkland Islands in 2017.

The Battery team remains a close knit community and the 40th anniversary of the conflict has enabled reunions.

* See page 12 for a review of the MV Norland story in a fascinating new book.

** There is a copy of Tom Martin's book in the Chapel Library donated by him.



Rev. Neil Jeffers, David Gibbins, Tony Rice, Bob Ash, James Watson, Tom Martin, Bill Moore

Nicci and Denzil on BBC Wales!

On Ash Wednesday, March 2022 BBC Wales arranged to interview veterans Nicci Pugh and Denzil Connick in the Falklands Chapel for the 40th Anniversary. Former nurse Nicci was deployed on board SS UGANDA and latterly wrote 'White Ship – Red Crosses' of which there is a copy in the Chapel Library. Denzil is a BLESMA member and former patient of the hospital ship; he was seriously injured with 3 Para

on Mount Longdon on 13th June 1982, losing one leg during the attack, and almost the other. Denzil was a main contributor to Nicci's book. They are seen here with Reverend Neil Jeffers presenting him with a newer, commemorative, hardback version of 'White Ship-Red Crosses' for the Chapel Library. During their visit they were able to view the new commemorative plaques in the Memorial Garden including that of SS UGANDA.



Throughout the 40th Anniversary the support provided by their Government, institutions and companies for events and projects has been testament to the enduring gratitude of the Falkland Islanders to our wonderful Armed Forces. Certainly the 40th Anniversary Service at the

Chapel could not have taken place without the generosity of all those listed here to whom the Trustees are eternally grateful. It merits special mention that one company – MITIE Group plc (building services) – supported the appeal with a priceless 'gift in kind' which was, in fact, to carry out much of the external refurbishment around the Chapel. This included renewing all the external lighting, laying new 'hoggin' on some Chapel pathways and replacing the cracked paving on the Chapel forecourt. Thank you to you all!

40th Anniversary Donors THANK YOU!

Argos Group Ltd
BAM Nuttall Ltd
Beauchene Fishing Ltd
Colonial Equipment Finance
Consolidated Fisheries Ltd
Fortuna Ltd
Howland and Partners
MITIE Group plc

Rigby Group Ltd
RSK Falkland Islands Ltd
Stanley Services Ltd
Sullivan Shipping Ltd
The Drapers' Company
The Fishmongers' Company
Trant Engineering

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Memorial Garden Transformed

The planned commemorative project to transform the circular Memorial Garden, which lies adjacent to the Chapel, is now making excellent progress. Twenty six organisations have come forward over the course of the 40th Anniversary year to sponsor plaques, including the Chapel Trustees themselves who have sponsored a plaque honouring the Falkland Islanders. This latter plaque is in recognition of the assistance provided by the islanders to HM Forces in 1982 and for their subsequent generous support of families, veterans and the Chapel.

On 12th June, it was good to see that two reunion groups

visited the Memorial Garden to inspect their plaques: members of HMS Alacrity (pictured); and a group from the RAF Regiment (pictured).

“The project to transform the Garden answers a long-standing call from members of organisations, associations and reunion groups to have some form of permanent tribute to their participation in the Falklands in 1982”, said Trustee Rear Admiral Dick Melly. “We are delighted that so many plaques have already been sponsored and that further plaques are under consideration. Our thanks to all those who have supported the project thus far.”



*‘From the Ship’s Company of HMS ALACRITY 1982.
For those who died in peril on the sea.’*

It was with typical speed and enthusiasm that the crew of HMS ALACRITY embarked upon their mission to raise funds for the Chapel which included the sponsorship of a Memorial Garden Plaque. Encouraged by their indomitable CO, Captain Chris Craig CB DSO RN they raised a remarkable £3,925 at their 40th Anniversary reunion in May 2022 including an auction of a limited edition print of ALACRITY sailing to the aid of SS ATLANTIC CONVEYOR which sold

for £1,350, many individual donations and £325 from the sale of SAMA scarves. Our picture shows the presentation of a cheque to Trustee Rear Admiral Dick Melly by HMS ALACRITY crew members:

(L-R) Karl Beck - Paul Tucker - Phil Holbrook - Dick Melly - Steve Parker - John Fosbery - Chris Craig - Mike Walker

on Sunday 11th June 2022 following the Service of Remembrance. A huge thank you to them all.



A Floral Christmas Extravaganza

The Chapel was bedecked from 'head to toe' in festive flowers and Christmas bells and baubles on the weekend of 26th/27th November. The Festival, entitled 'Deck the Halls' was organised by Berks, Bucks and Oxon Flower Clubs in aid of the FIMCT and the Motor Neurone Disease

Association. The Christmas theme was reflected in all of the elements of 31 displays which had been carefully constructed and arranged throughout the Chapel. Our favourite, somewhat biased, were the Falklands Christmas tree baubles decorated with sparkling penguins!



The Chapel Library

The Chapel Library comprises many of the books published about the Falklands War. They are there for our visitors to enjoy and browse at leisure. The books are kept inside a row of new cupboards inside the Memorial Room. If you would like to borrow a book when visiting the Chapel, please inform the Chaplain at neil.jeffers@pangbourne.com, providing your name, contact details, and the title of the book that you have borrowed.

All of the books in the Library have either been bought by the Trustees or have been donated by generous families, veterans and supporters. If you would like to donate a Falklands-related book, then please check first with the Chapel Secretary, Angelaep@aol.com, to ensure that the Library does not already contain a copy. Finally, please ensure that any borrowed books are returned promptly to the Library, once they have been read. Thank you!

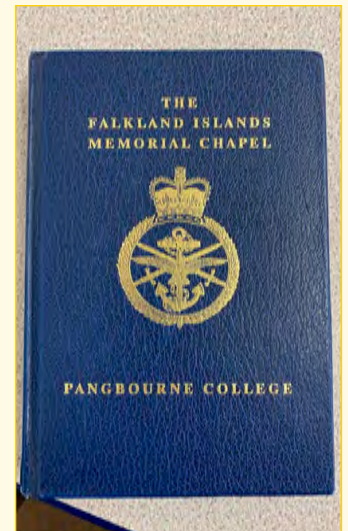


The Memorial Garden is shaping up nicely

Appeal - Help for Hymn Books

Visitors to the Chapel may have noticed the sorry state of the hymn books which, after twelve years of constant use since replacement, are showing their age. The need to replace them again is now urgent; following the passing of Her Majesty the Queen the National Anthem is out of date as well as some of the prayers. It is therefore time to order another stock of 1,000 for Reverend Jeffers to rotate as they show signs of wear. Inevitably, the cost of printing and binding has more than doubled in the last decade and we must find a massive £21,000! To that end, Chapel benefactor, Lord Iliffe, who kindly helped us with the replacement stock in 2010, has promised to 'kick start' our appeal with £7,500 from the Iliffe Family Charitable Trust,

and another loyal benefactor has pledged £1,000. If you would like to contribute to the hymn book appeal please fill in the relevant section of the enclosed Annual Service booking form. Thank you to you all!



If you would like to make a donation to the Hymn Book Appeal, please complete the form below.
Thank you!

Full Name

1st line of my address + postcode

Email address

Telephone or mobile number

I enclose a cheque for £

as a contribution to the cost of new hymn books.

I confirm that **I am a UK taxpayer** and that **you may** claim Gift Aid on my donation *(delete if not appropriate)*

Signed

Please forward this form and your cheque to
Mrs Angela Perry MBE, Secretary to the Trustees, FIMCT,
Pangbourne College, Pangbourne, Reading

City Status for Stanley

In May 2022, Stanley the capital of the Falkland Islands became the first Overseas Territory to be granted official city status by Her Majesty The Queen, in this case as part of Platinum Jubilee celebration, following a rigorous assessment process of all 39 applications. It is even more special given that 2022 celebrates the first British monarch to reach 70 years on the throne, as well as the 40th anniversary of the Falkland Islands War.

MLA Pete Biggs said: “We are utterly thrilled to have been chosen for this very rare

award. This celebration of her extraordinary reign comes at a time when we in the Falkland Islands are equally reflecting on an extraordinary time in our own history. For our small community it was an unprecedented time, but I am delighted that, 40 years on from those dark days, we are being recognised in this way – I think it goes to show just how far we have come in that time, building a thriving, prosperous nation, which continually looks to the future while respecting our past.”



HRH the Princess Royal laying a wreath at the Liberation Monument in Stanley.
Credit: Penguin News

The Princess Royal re-visits the Islands for the 40th

Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal paid her fourth visit to the Falkland Islands from 17th November for six days. Accompanied by her husband, Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, she undertook a very busy programme of events which included laying a wreath at the Liberation Monument; visiting the 1982 battlefield sites and the British Cemetery at Blue Beach; seeing the wildlife at Sea Lion Island and Bleaker Island; attending a reception for veterans and civilians; visiting a Multi-Cultural Day at Goose

Green and a Community Day at Mount Pleasant Complex; attending a dinner hosted by the Legislative Assembly; and visiting the Historic Dockyard Museum. Whilst in Stanley, Her Royal Highness also unveiled a plaque on Victory Green, marking award of City status to Stanley by Her Majesty the Queen in the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition. On her final day in Stanley, she planted a tree in the Memorial Wood, as part of the Queen's Green Canopy Platinum Jubilee Project.

A New Governor for the Islands

The Swearing in Ceremony for the new Falkland Islands Governor and first female Governor, Ms Alison Blake CMG took place in July. At the ceremony she remarked: “It's a huge privilege and a great pleasure to be sworn in as your new Governor. I first visited Stanley in 1993 as a junior official in the UK's Ministry of Defence. And I never dreamt then that nearly 30 years later I would be standing here as your Governor; and the first woman to hold this appointment. Thank you again for your warm welcome and I am looking forward to working together in partnership and also

to seeing as much as I can of these beautiful Islands while we strive for a peaceful, secure, and prosperous future for the people of the Falkland Islands.”

Ms Blake had previous postings as HM Ambassador to Kabul (2019-2021) and as High Commissioner to Dhaka (2016 to 2019).

The ceremony was followed by a parade at Victory Green with a Guard of Honour consisting of a tri-service detachment of Royal Navy, Army, and Royal Air Force and a detachment from the Falkland Islands Defence Force, and a 17 gun-salute.



Governor Alison Blake (centre) photo Penguin News

ANNUAL SERVICE 2023

Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving Sunday 11th June 2023

The 2023 Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will be held at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne 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. Ground floor seating priority will be given to bereaved families and disabled individuals. We do our best to make sure that seating is allocated fairly and would ask you to be understanding of the logistical problems that can arise. Coffee will be available on arrival and after the Service, lunch will be served in Drake Hall and adjoining tents.

Attendees will not be required to have a ticket this year but you do need to book in so that we cater for the correct numbers. If you have not already sent a booking form please complete the Invitation Reply form in this package and return to the Secretary at the address below. Forms are also available from the Chapel web site also. (If you have already applied and had an acknowledgment of receipt, please do not apply again). If your plans change and you can no longer attend please let us know. As usual there will be a train collection service from Reading station at 11.00 so if you need this service please 'tick' the box on the form. Thank you!

The Trustees would like to thank the Falkland Islands Government for providing the funds to make it possible to organise this annual event.

NEED A HELPING HAND WITH YOUR TRAVEL COSTS?

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. They are aware of the rising costs of petrol, train travel and necessary accommodation and keep a fund in order to help in these special circumstances. Anyone who finds themselves unable to attend due to the high cost of travel etc, please telephone or write to the Secretary to ask for assistance. All such contact will be treated with the utmost confidence.

LIVE STREAMED ANNUAL SERVICE

Last year 1,327 people 'virtually attended' our Service because it was live streamed on the Pangbourne You Tube TV platform as it played out. The Trustees had installed permanent cameras in the Chapel so that when anyone who is unable to attend through illness, disability or prior engagement, can always enjoy a live streamed version of every Annual Service. The Chapel website and Facebook group will publish details for the Pangbourne TV You Tube link in the week prior to 11th June.

Contact:

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A Fearless Encounter

On a windy Sunday October 30th in Sallyport, Old Portsmouth HMS FEARLESS veteran Commander John Prime, also representing Rear Admiral Jeremy Larken DSO RN and Captain John Kelly OBE RN, donated a copy of the HMS FEARLESS Falklands 40th Anniversary Anthology and presented a cheque for £1,000 raised from the sales of the book to Rear Admiral Dick Melly, a Trustee of the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust.

The occasion was the 40th Anniversary Rededication of the Falklands Memorial Stone and Benches, which now includes plaques commemorating all 258 Service personnel and civilians who made the ultimate sacrifice during the 1982 war, rather than being limited to the Royal and Merchant Navies. The ceremony was attended by around 50 Falklands veterans, The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Hugh Mason and the Deputy Chaplain of the Fleet,

The Very Reverend David Conroy KHC. The two Falklands Memorial Benches, the funds for which were raised by Barrie Jones, HMS INTREPID 1982, had been relocated from the seaward side to places of prominence beneath the plaques. Corporal John Ferry, Section Commander with 2 Troop, 9 Para Squadron RE in 1982 was present as 'Piper' (pictured).



Advice for Chapel Visitors

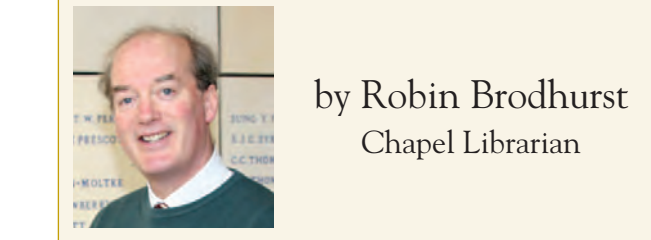
The Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel is open daily to visitors between the hours of 0900-1700. It would be helpful if visitors could either email reception@pangbourne.com or telephone 01189 842101 (in office hours) to pre-arrange their visit. Giving notice of a visit would enable the College to advise visitors of any events or activities that may be scheduled to take place in the Chapel. On arrival at the College visitors will encounter a barrier at which there are clear instructions for entry. CCTV is in operation to show who is waiting and the office will lift the barrier. Thank you.

BOOK REVIEWS

There are not enough books about the contribution of the Merchant Navy to the Falklands War. It is a simple fact that without the Ships Taken Up From Trade (STUFT) the Task Force could never have delivered liberation, whether it was the big liners, or the smallest tugs, the container ships or the cruise ships. MV Norland was in 'ordinary life' a Ro-Ro ferry ploughing the North Sea between Hull and the coastal ports of Belgium, Holland and France, but her voyage in 1982 and 1983 is a vivid example of what those Merchant Marine ships went through, and it is valuable because of the scarcity of such volumes.

Reg Kemp would say that he was just an 'ordinary' bloke, doing an 'ordinary' job as a night steward, married with two children, but as the book unfolds it becomes clear that he is not 'ordinary' at all. Firstly, the crew were offered the option of going to the South Atlantic, and a number, perfectly reasonably, decided not to go. Kemp is well aware of the Merchant Navy's history in both world wars, making a number of acute references to it, and so accepted the dangers likely to be there. Secondly, and this is at the heart of the book, he established very good relations with the troops carried down to the Islands, principally 2 Para. He vastly admires the 'Toms' and their NCOs, and he even accepts their officers! This is to touch a raw point. Kemp has few problems in accepting orders from his own officers, but finds it difficult to accept them from Royal Navy personnel, or to accept that in combat the latter must have the final say. Army officers are rarely acceptable, aside from those in 2 Para, and as for the 3rd Service, words fail him. He is, of course, limited to those he came across on Norland. He paints a delightful picture of many of his colleagues, and how they managed to cope with the strains and stresses of combat. The account of disembarking 2 Para in San Carlos Bay is gripping, as is his account of what might be called The Battle of Bomb Alley, as the Argentine air force tried to halt the invasion.

One might have expected that at the end of the conflict Norland would have taken troops back to the UK, but not a bit of it. After some leave back in Britain (half the crew at a time) she was used to act as a ferry again, but this time between Ascension Island



by Robin Brodhurst
Chapel Librarian

Mv Norland. Secret Weapon Of The Falklands War From North Sea Ferry To Task Force Assault Ship

By Reg Kemp and Michael Wood

Published by The History Press £17.99

253 pages, 45 colour photographs, 48 black and white photographs

The Band That Went To War The Royal Marines Band in the Falklands

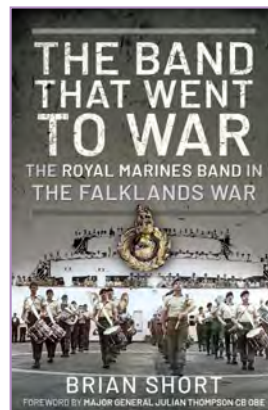
By Brian Short

Published by Pen & Sword £25

206 pages, 112 photographs

and Port Stanley. As a result, Kemp got to know quite a lot of the islanders, particularly those who frequented the Globe Tavern. He did not find all of the troops being ferried out to garrison the islands easy, nor the civilians accompanying them to build the new airport. This went on for well over a year, until troop carrying planes could land. However, he is much moved by the farewell given to Norland by Major General David Thorne and by the Royal Navy as they leave for Hull. Norland was eventually scrapped, but Kemp remains in touch with fellow Merchant Navy veterans as well as 2 Para, and the book ends with an elegiac trip back to the Falklands in 2014, in a chapter entitled 'Laying Ghosts to Rest'. I feel sure that he did, and it is a moving tale that he tells.

This is warmly recommended to anybody who wants to understand the Merchant Marine's involvement in the campaign. Idiosyncratic, personable, occasionally indiscrete but with his heart totally in the right place, this book deserves a wide readership.



I cannot believe that there is an individual who is not impressed by the sight of a Royal Marines band in full dress beating retreat, or simply marching somewhere playing at full volume: soul stirring and emotional, inspiring and valued throughout the country. The sight of the Band beating retreat outside the Chapel in 2012 was a memory for the ages, and it is often a small RM contingent that accompanies the organ in the annual service. How many of us knew that a full RM Band accompanied the Task Force on board SS Canberra? Not many I suspect, and this volume, written by bugler Brian Short tells their amazing story.

His style is relaxed, with frequent asides to his readers commenting at times that this is his book and he'll write it how he likes! He introduces us to the Royal Marine Band Service, explaining their role, their training and their view of life, and explains how the news of the Argentinian invasion gradually crept up on them. On Easter leave,

like many others, the Commando Forces Band was hastily recalled to Stonehouse Barracks, Plymouth and told they were going to war initially as attached troops to the Commando Medical Squadron. One RM colonel, having seen them perform well during the firemen's strike, suggested they 'should just go along', and be an asset to the Task Force.

So 'off to war they went' initially as an extra work force, involved in the mammoth task of moving boxes of compositions for the entire Task Force. The voyage south was relatively slow and the embarked troops needed fitness training and entertainment. What better for the latter than an RM band? Sure enough they performed in jazz and classical quartet, full jazz band and every combination they could think of. They were vastly appreciated both by the troops as well as the civilian crew.

When Canberra arrived at San Carlos Bay their real work began transferring casualties to newly created hospital facilities, and comforting them. In a most moving passage Brian Short describes how he spoke reassuringly to a casualty who appeared to be unconscious. When he recovered, he told the author that he remembered every word he had said. Another task was guarding Argentinian prisoners. Not having their own weapons there was a hurried request to HMS FEARLESS which provided them with a motley collection of single pieces. After the Argentinian surrender, Canberra was used to transport the surviving enemy troops back home, and Short contrasts the subdued welcome they received at an obscured southern port, with the tumultuous welcome at Portsmouth that Canberra received. That voyage home with all three RM Commandos aboard and a triumphant beating of retreat passed in something of an alcoholic haze, but there is no hiding his pride as Canberra's PA announced "Canberra's Royal Marine Band, Your Royal Marine Band, our Royal Marine Band".

Apart from telling a marvellous story this book is a ringing endorsement of military bands. The contribution that the Royal Marine Commando Forces Band made to the Falklands War is priceless in terms of monetary value or military achievement; but it contributed notably nonetheless, and should be more than a mere footnote. Brian Short's book achieves this wonderfully well and is warmly recommended.