



# Falklands Focus

NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT  
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## Opportunities for the Future

**The Falkland Islands' thriving economy was put under the spotlight at a one-day business forum, hosted by the Falkland Islands Government (FIG), on 18 April 2007 at the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster, London.**

The Falklands Forum - 'Opportunities for the Future' was held in the 25th Anniversary year of the Falklands Conflict to demonstrate how the Islands have developed into an economically self-sustaining community.

Around 200 delegates, including representatives from the international business community, politicians, academics and the media, listened to presentations on the Islands' vibrant economy and opportunities for investment in key industries including oil and minerals, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture and agriculture.

BBC broadcaster, Nicholas Owen, chaired the event and speakers included Foreign and Commonwealth Minister Dr Kim Howells MP, FIG representatives and private sector companies. FIG Chief Executive, Chris Simpkins, presented an economic overview of the Falklands, whilst Councillors outlined the Islands' constitutional development as well as improvements to infrastructure.

Cheryl Roberts, Chair of Consolidated Fisheries Ltd, and Lewis Clifton OBE, Managing Director of Byron Marine Ltd, who sponsored industry sessions on fishing and oil and minerals, provided fascinating insights into the operation of successful businesses in the Islands. Over 15 private companies, both local and international, sponsored the Forum. An eye-catching exhibition profiled businesses as well as Falklands' organisations.



Forum Chair, Broadcaster Nicholas Owen

Sukey Cameron MBE, the FIG UK Representative, said: "The Forum provided us with an opportunity to take stock of our economic achievements since 1982 and to consider our future potential. It was also an occasion for us to share a picture of the modern Falklands. We are self-sufficient, self-determined and excited about our future prospects for development."

The Forum closed with a Q & A session on doing business in the Islands and was followed by a reception at the House of Commons hosted by Sir Nicholas Winterton MP, Chair of the Falkland Islands All Party Parliamentary Group. The Rt Hon William Hague MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who recently visited the Islands, pledged that a Conservative Government would uphold the current policy of supporting the Falkland Islands against Argentina's sovereignty claim.

Sir Nicholas echoed Mr Hague's opinion that there should be no doubt of bi-partisan support for the Falklands.

The Forum attracted the attention of national media. Rob Davidovitz, from Sky News, described it as "eye-opening". Journalist and broadcaster Peter Jennings, said: "What impressed me was the mixture of speakers, with Government, entrepreneurs and local businesses all represented".

Duncan Campbell, from The Guardian newspaper, said the event was useful in moving the Islands on from the images of the war: "I think there are still preconceptions in Britain about the Islands and what happens there, as they are always seen through the prism of war".



Falklands Councillors Hon Janet Robertson, Hon Mike Summers OBE and Hon Dr. Andrea Clausen with the Rt Hon William Hague MP, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, at the House of Commons Reception

**Presentations from the Forum can be downloaded at**  
[www.falklands.gov.fk/forum2007](http://www.falklands.gov.fk/forum2007)

# 25 YEARS ON: THE FALK



The hydroponic market garden

In this 25th Anniversary year of the Falklands Conflict, numerous visitors, including journalists, veterans and Royalty, have travelled to the Islands and witnessed first hand the remarkable Falklands success story.

The Falkland Islands are one of the UK's most dynamic Overseas Territories and is now self-sufficient from the UK in all areas, apart from defence which represents 0.5% of the total defence budget. The Islands' GDP has risen from £5m in 1982 to over £75m today as a result of diversification initiatives and inward investment. The Islands' international transport links have also been transformed with regular air access and connection to the worldwide containerised-shipping network.

Today, traditional sheep farmers are involved in the development of a meat export industry; tourism is the fastest growing sector with visitor figures in the range of 55,000 a year and rising; and the Falklands fishery, which provides the main source of income for the Government through the sale of fishing licenses, is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. The Islands are also an attractive frontier area for offshore and onshore mineral exploration. Indeed, the exploitation of oil deposits offshore could prove to be the Falklands' most lucrative industry yet.

The Islands are also playing their part on the international stage and engaging with global challenges. A signatory of the Kyoto protocol, the

Falklands have embraced green technology. Tim Cotter, Falkland Islands Development Corporation, said: "Over 70 farms have access to 24-hour electrical power and most are using wind turbines. A wind farm for Stanley has been constructed with the aim of optimising our wind resource and reducing our reliance on imported fuel."

Other signs of the Falklands' modernisation include several new restaurants and bars, a hydroponic market garden, an independent

radio station and a doubling of the number of households with computers over the past decade as the Islands join the Internet revolution.

Chris Simpkins, FIG Chief Executive, said: "We are committed to securing the Islands' long term economic sustainability. We will continue to build on the progress we have made towards prosperity over the past 25 years. We believe that the Islands can combine economic growth with the conservation of our unique and unspoiled environment."

## Falklands at a glance

	2007	1982
<i>Resident Population</i>	2,478	1,800
<i>Main Economy</i>	Fisheries, Tourism, Agriculture	Agriculture
<i>No. of dwellings in Stanley</i>	930	463
<i>Tourists per annum</i>	55,000	500
<i>Communications/IT</i>	International phone system, Internet, Mobile phones	Internal phone communications only & two-way short band radio
<i>Road network</i>	800km	Stanley only

**The population has increased by over a third and is youthful, with 78% aged 55 years and under. Many Islanders can trace their origins back over 150 years to the early days of settlement and over 90% can claim either British birth or descent.**



Sports lesson underway at the modern secondary school

# FALKLANDS SUCCESS STORY



Nick Rendell

**Nick Rendell, 25, was born in 1982. He grew up in the Islands and completed A levels and a degree in the UK before returning home to continue his career.**

"My appreciation of the Falklands really developed over the course of the six years I spent studying overseas. My time in the UK served to illustrate how unique the Falkland Islands are. The sense of space,

freedom, and wilderness are all-pervasive in the Islands, and I still love the fact that if there is someone on the beach when you get there you just drive on to the next one!

"The range of wildlife and scenery is awe inspiring, while Falkland traditions, such as Camp Sports Week and the Christmas horse races are all great fun, and make me proud of my country.

"The Falklands are modernising rapidly, and many of the facilities once unheard of are now available. The advent of the mobile phone network and development of broadband internet is a reflection of the booming economy and how progress is being driven on; making the Falklands an exciting place to live and work."

## 25th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

### Falklands' Gratitude To British Forces Is "Undiminished"

On 14 June, Liberation Day, over 400 guests, including HRH The Countess of Wessex, Baroness Thatcher and Derek Twigg MP, Veterans Minister, attended the Annual Reception at Lincoln's Inn, London. UK Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE paid tribute to the courage of the British Task Force which liberated the Islands and affirmed the wish of Falkland Islanders to seek peaceful co-operation with their neighbours. The Representative ended her speech by saying: "Together, let us ensure that never again will the tragedy of 1982 be repeated. Those who made the supreme sacrifice would expect nothing less of us."

Earlier in the day a service of commemoration and remembrance took place at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne. The service was preceded by a flypast of Harrier aircraft. After the service, Her Majesty The Queen laid a stone on the memorial Cairn. The stone, from the Falkland Islands, was dedicated during the service in memory of the people who died serving their country. The event was shown live on BBC television.



Baroness Thatcher, HRH The Countess of Wessex and Sukey Cameron MBE

### Veterans Tribute

On 17 June, ten thousand Falkland Veterans and their families took part in the National Commemoration in the presence of Royalty. Representing the Government was the Prime Minister, joined by senior military and political figures past and present, including Baroness Thatcher. The veterans marched down the Mall to the Queen Victoria Memorial, where HRH The Prince of Wales took the salute. A tri-service flypast, representing the squadrons that flew in 1982, paid their own tribute to the veterans. There was a live link up with the Falklands to a wreath laying ceremony at San Carlos, presided over by HRH The Earl of Wessex.



HRH the Earl of Wessex laying a wreath at San Carlos

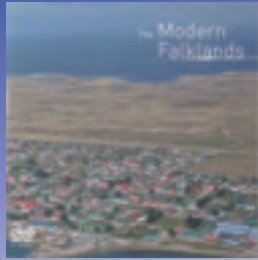
### VIP Visit to the Falkland Islands

HRH The Earl of Wessex represented Her Majesty the Queen during a week-long programme of commemorative events in the Islands. Other VIP guests included Lord Parkinson, representing Baroness Thatcher, and Lady Parkinson; Sir Rex and Lady Hunt; Adam Ingram MP, Armed Forces Minister representing Her Majesty's Government; Dr Liam Fox MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence; and Sir Nicholas Winterton MP, Chair of the Falkland Islands Parliamentary All Party Group, and Lady Ann Winterton MP. Veterans and next of kin of those who died in 1982 were also present.

NEWS IN BRIEF

**Modern Falklands DVD**

A short, inspiring film featuring Islanders telling their own stories and the progress made in the last 25 years. Copies are available free-of-charge from Falkland House.



Log on to the FIG new-look website [www.falklands.gov.fk](http://www.falklands.gov.fk) which now contains a media centre and image gallery as well as providing a comprehensive overview of the Falklands.

**The Times Special Focus Report**

The Times published a three-page focus report on the Falkland Islands on 2 April, the 25th Anniversary of the invasion. The report looked at the Islands' economic, social and political transformation since the Conflict. Copies are available from Falkland House.



Natural Ingredients: Taste of the Falklands, a coffee-table recipe book co-produced by restaurateur Alex Olmedo and photographer Julie Bellhouse, was launched in the UK on 30 May at Falkland House. The book features mouth-watering recipes using local produce and is accompanied by beautiful photographs of Falklands scenery and wildlife. The book is on sale at Falkland House and online at [www.atasteofthefalklands.com](http://www.atasteofthefalklands.com)

**Southampton Photographic Exhibition**

A photographic exhibition of the Falkland Islands was held in May in Southampton. 'Falklands in Focus - Remembering and Developing' featured a selection of stunning images by professional and amateur photographers, who shared their personal views of the enduring beauty and character of the Islands.

**High Interest in Falklands at Stoneleigh Royal Show**



The FIG exhibition stand at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire, 1 - 3 July, attracted visitors who were treated to beautiful images of the Islands and had the opportunity to speak to Falkland Islands Government UK Representative Miss Sukey Cameron MBE, and Councillor Ian Hansen, pictured here with the Rt Hon Sir Menzies Campbell CBE QC.

**25th Anniversary Coin Collection Minted**

Baroness Thatcher and Sir Rex Hunt, Governor of the Falklands in 1982, launched a commemorative set of coins in May to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falklands. The coins are minted by Pobjoy Mint Ltd and will be legal tender in the Falklands. All Falklands school children received a commemorative 50-pence piece.

For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:  
[www.falklands.gov.fk](http://www.falklands.gov.fk)



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