



# Falklands Focus UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

SEPTEMBER 2008

## *New Agreement Brings Oil Drilling Closer*

**A new round of exploratory drilling for oil in the Falkland Islands has moved closer following the signing of a farm-out agreement between Desire Petroleum Plc and a UK company, Arcadia Petroleum Ltd.**

The Falkland Islands Government has also awarded a new production licence to Desire Petroleum with Arcadia Petroleum as a partner for acreage in the North Falkland Basin.

With a new partner on board, Desire Petroleum is now in a position to actively pursue all available rig opportunities for drilling.

Falkland Islands Government Director of Mineral Resources, Phyl Rendell, welcomed the agreement commenting, "It's another step forward in a very long process; we congratulate Desire on finding a new partner to work with to get a step closer to drilling wells."

The discovery of oil in the Falklands would provide enormous benefits to the Islands' economy which has already seen impressive growth. The Islands are entirely self-sufficient in all areas except defence, which totals 0.1 per cent of Britain's overall defence expenditure.

## *Foreign Affairs Committee Urges End to Argentine Flight Ban*

The Foreign Affairs Select Committee report on the UK's Overseas Territories has recommended that the Prime Minister should call for an end to Argentina's ban on flights to the Falklands crossing its airspace. The report also said Mr Brown should stress "the logistical issues" of transport and accommodation if Argentine families insist on flying in en masse to visit the graves of their war dead in November, rather than arriving by sea as the Falkland Islands Government has recommended.

The Report recommended that the Prime Minister should press the Argentine President to agree to the establishment of a regional fisheries management organisation for the South West Atlantic and reiterate the Islands' right to develop a hydrocarbon industry. The Committee also called for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to work with the Falkland Islands Government and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to ensure that the MoD Airbridge service enables the Islands to further develop the growing tourism industry.

## *Falklands Tourism on Show in the UK*

The Falkland Islands Tourist Board (FITB) recently briefed travel journalists and trade representatives on the attractions of the Islands at a special Falklands 'Smoko' event in London.

Jake Downing, FITB General Manager, introduced the fast-

growing Falklands tourism industry to guests, while Hattie Kilmartin provided an insight into her experience of running a tourist lodge and providing guided tours. Guests sampled a taste of the Falklands: scones, diddle

dee jam and homemade smoko biscuits.

The FITB also exhibited at BirdFair, the world's largest international birdwatching event. Many visitors stopped off at the Falklands' stand to learn about over 220 species of birds, including five

species of penguin and over 60% of the world's black-browed albatross population, that are found in the Islands.

*For more information on Falklands tourism visit [www.falklandislands.com](http://www.falklandislands.com)*



Photo: Falkland Islands Holidays

Photo: Georgina Strange

Photo: Derek Petterson

## New General Manager for FIDC

The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC), responsible for encouraging the economic development of the Islands, has appointed David Waugh as its new General Manager.



Mr Waugh looks forward to building on the successes achieved by the FIDC over the past 25 years. He is a keen sailor and will be taking advantage of the beautiful waters surrounding the Falklands by transporting his 52' sailing yacht to his new home.

Mr Waugh has wide international experience in property and infrastructure development, business improvement and regeneration. His previous posts include Chief Executive of Liverpool Land Development Company, Executive Project Director of the Canary Wharf Development in London and Director of Trafalgar House/Kvearner.

## Royalty Gets a "Taste of the Falklands"



Photo: Charles Sainsbury-Plaice

The Falkland Islands Government's tenth year exhibiting at the Royal Show was marked with a visit from a very special guest, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Falkland Islands Government UK Representative, Sukey Cameron MBE, took the opportunity to present Prince Charles with a copy of "Taste of the Falklands", a book of Falklands recipes illustrated with stunning photography.

## Sporting Success for Islanders

The Falkland Islands Rifle Association team is celebrating two victories after winning the Kolapore Cup and Nobel Cup at the National Rifle Association's 139th annual Imperial Meeting at Bisley. Falkland's seasoned marksmen Ken Aldridge, Christian Berntsen and Derek Goodwin were joined by 18 year old Mark Dodd to become the first team in fifty one years to win the Kolapore Cup for the Islands and the first in twenty eight years to win a junior cup.



Photo: Penguin News

It is hoped that their success will be replicated by a team of Islanders competing in the Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune this October. Badminton players Aidan Smith and Julian Barton will compete in both singles and doubles events while Murray Middleton represents the Islands in pistol shooting and Bono McKay participates in the shotgun competitions.

## New Legislative Council Website Launched

The Falkland Islands Government has launched a new website - [www.falklands.gov.fk/legco](http://www.falklands.gov.fk/legco) - which provides visitors with a comprehensive overview of the Legislative Council and the workings of the Government. The website contains information on the organisation of the Council and pages on each Councillor, the constituencies and the portfolios. Visitors to the site will also find information on the proceedings of the Council, including public papers and transcripts of meetings, as well as news of progress towards a new constitution.

## Airbridge to be Operated by Flyglobespan

The new South Atlantic airbridge contract, to operate flights between RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire and the Falkland Islands, via Ascension Island, has been awarded to Chapman Freeborn by the Ministry of Defence. The service will be operated twice weekly by Flyglobespan using a Boeing 767 aircraft, beginning on 1 October.

Flights will leave Brize Norton southbound on Wednesdays and Sundays, and will leave Mount Pleasant northbound on Fridays and Tuesdays. The service will provide a higher frequency than the previous arrangement, as well as an enhanced aeromedical and freight capability.



Photo: www.airplane-pictures.net

## Diary Date

- **Showcase Exhibition** - A collection of art work by Shirley Merrell is being exhibited at Falkland House, London, until November. Shirley's drawings feature Falklands wildlife, including sea lions, penguins and the black browed albatross.



For further information on the Falkland Islands please visit:

[www.falklands.gov.fk](http://www.falklands.gov.fk)



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