Our Islands, Our Home
This publication, revealing the lives of Islanders a generation after the war, is dedicated to the men and women of Her Majesty’s Armed Forces and support personnel who liberated the Falkland Islands from Argentine occupation in 1982. The success of today’s Falkland Islands is the legacy of your sacrifice. It is your legacy and we remain eternally grateful.

From the people of the Falklands
MY FAMILY LINKS with the Islands on my father’s side go back to Jacob Lee, one of the first settlers to come down from the UK in the 1850s; my great-grandfather on my mother’s side was an Irishman who was shipwrecked here and then chose to settle.

My father bought a piece of Green Patch farm when it was subdivided in the late 70s and we all moved to the Murrell when I was six years old. I had a travelling teacher and was among the first kids to start up radio lessons using two metre sets. I moved into Stanley to the hostel for the last few years of secondary school then headed straight back to the Murrell before starting an agriculture training year at Blue Beach farm; this training carried a prize at the end for the top two trainees, of which I was one, who got to go to Australia to gain experience working on farms.

I started shearing here in the Islands for Neil McKay in November 1995, before heading off to the UK and New Zealand the following year. I also sheared in America for a season in Wyoming and I worked for many seasons in Australia and Italy.

I have taken on the organisation of shearing in the Falklands and in the last three summers we have worked with a few young lads who were keen to learn to shear and are now doing well. There is a good career available for young shearers and also a great opportunity for them to travel the world to gain more experience and see lots of things as I have done.

I have been involved in competition shearing and have been lucky enough to shear for the Falklands at three world events (in Scotland, Norway and Wales). In Wales in 2010 our team made it into the final to secure us sixth place overall. We really got to promote the Islands and it was one of my proudest moments, being on the stage in front of thousands of people representing my country; I have been lucky enough to be selected to attend the 2012 world championships in New Zealand.

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I have just taken on a farming lease at Johnsons Harbour farm with my wife Martha (who is from Cumbria in England) so my days of travelling around the world have ended. I have chosen to come home as I feel it has a safe and free environment in which to bring up a family and also the future seems to look good for the islands.

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Dr Rebecca Edwards

Part time GP Dr Rebecca Edwards lives at Port Howard with her husband, Christopher Lee, and three children, Jessica, Daniel & Oliver.

I pray that Argentina will wake up and realise that we aren’t going to vanish or give in to their bullying, and that they accept us as a nation of people in our own right, choosing to live the life we want to, quietly, in our home, the Falkland Islands. I hope that soon we will see the Falklands and Argentina living peacefully, and respectfully, side by side.

Georgina Strange

Photographer Georgina Strange is the manager of the New Island nature reserve, owned by the New Island Conservation Trust – a non-profit charity.

FOR AROUND SEVEN MONTHS of the year, I live and work on one of the most remote outlying islands of the Falkland Islands, New Island, on the extreme western edge of the archipelago. My work on this tiny island wildlife sanctuary is centred on environmental research and eco-tourism – New Island is a nature reserve, and my main job is management of the island and its small team of seabird biologists. My role also includes taking care of cruise ship visitors and hosting wildlife film teams, but on the less glamorous side, I am responsible for all aspects of island upkeep here, including those where you really have to get your hands dirty. The feeling of freedom on New Island and its incredible wilderness and isolation are what I really love about it, not to mention the people that you meet and the opportunities that come your way. The island has only four houses and at most might be home to ten individuals at any one time, but bizarrely you often meet more people here than you would living in the main town.

In my spare time I indulge in my photography and design and for the rest of the year, I divide my time between Stanley and travelling to new destinations – for me, taking time away to explore other parts of the world only reminds me how special the Falklands are, and being away from them reinforces my desire to return. Travel and experience living abroad is important in my mind; it’s easy to become ignorant and forget about the rest of the world when you live in such an isolated corner of it.

I was born in Argentina in 1981 to an English father and an Argentine mother, both of whom proudly call the Falklands home. I feel very privileged to have grown up, unique and where I feel very privileged to have friendships that will last no matter how much time you spend away, a place of close-knit community and life-long memories that I will treasure forever.

Norma Edwards OBE, a 4th generation Falkland Islander, was a young nurse living in the UK with her two young daughters, Ganna and Rebecca, when her naval officer husband, Roger, was sent South with the Task Force. I was born in Argentina in 1981 to an English father and an Argentine mother, both of whom proudly call the Falklands home. I feel very privileged to have grown up, unique and where I feel very privileged to have friendships that will last no matter how much time you spend away, a place of close-knit community and life-long memories that I will treasure forever.

When I think of the Falkland Islands, I think of a wild and free place where the wind roars and the open skies go on forever; a place of close-knit community and life-long friendships that will last no matter how much time you spend away, a place that is truly unique and where I feel very privileged to have grown up.

“the feeling of freedom on New Island and its incredible wilderness and isolation are what I really love about it”
Small in size, big on ambition

We are a small nation with big achievements and prospects. Despite our size we get on and do everything a country needs to do. We have a diverse and thriving economy and a bustling social scene.
Ben Cockwell
Artist and designer Ben Cockwell lives at Fox Bay with his wife Clare. He runs a small printing and embroidery business with his sister, Kerri.

FOX BAY EAST, one of the old ‘big’ settlements, on West Falkland, is my home; my earliest ambition was to live in Fox Bay, these were my ambitions.

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Richard Cockwell OBE was living at Fox Bay east, one of the old ‘big’ settlements, on West Falkland, is my home; my earliest ambition was to live in Fox Bay, these were my ambitions.

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A CLEAR BENEFIT that the war gave to my generation of Falkland Islanders is a sense of certainty that we are very fortunate to be able to call this place home. That has given us a drive, purpose, and pride in our country, and has enabled us to make progress that we couldn’t have dreamed might be possible in the context of the political uncertainty and economic stagnation that was the background to our childhood before the war.

But even if we hadn’t had to suffer the invasion, I still think that I would just know that I was lucky to live here. Despite the worries of my childhood before the war.

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Ros Cheek
Ros Cheek is Principal Crown Counsel, one of the Falkland Islands Government’s top legal advisors. She lives in Stanley with her partner Ian ‘Sparky’ Ewen.

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Ian Betts

Ian Betts is a self-employed plumber who lives in Stanley. He coaches the Stanley football team and is a sergeant in the Falkland Islands Defence Force, the locally maintained volunteer defence unit.

We have a football league which runs throughout the summer months, roughly from November – March. There are four teams in the league and they all have a wide age range, each has at least three 14-year-olds playing in them which is great as the young players get valuable experience. The best players in the league get picked to play for Stanley, which is basically also the national side. They have fixtures against players from the British Forces and also get the opportunity to travel overseas – we try to send a team to the Island Games every two years. Normally the training for the Games is a last six month push but we now know we need to work all year round and we’ve started training already.

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George Betts was captain of the Monsunen cricket team and I’m a sergeant in the Stanley football team, I’m the wicket-keeper also benefits. It means I can take a day off when I need to. But it has worked out well and both of us have had much thought into it, I think I was just having a bad day. But it has worked out well and both of us have had much thought into it, I think I was just having a bad day.

I had had enough of being an employee and another plumber for two years before deciding to do an apprenticeship which is great as the young players get valuable experience. The best players in the league get picked to play for Stanley, which is basically also the national side. They have fixtures against players from the British Forces and also get the opportunity to travel overseas – we try to send a team to the Island Games every two years. Normally the training for the Games is a last six month push but we now know we need to work all year round and we’ve started training already.

A lot of my time is dedicated to being a sergeant in the RDF. Essentially we are an infantry company-sized force, trained and prepared in the same skills and arguably more than the average British infantry company; in other words, we get to do things they don’t.

Lucinda May

Lucinda May is the daughter of Lucinda & Amara, Patrick Watts MBE was broadcasting live to the entire Falkland Islands population when the Argentines invaded on the 2nd of April 1982. He continued to work in the radio station throughout the occupation, determined to maintain a British presence on the radio despite the intrusion by Argentine military officers.

Lucinda May lives in Stanley with her husband Jonathan. She teaches children at the Infant and Junior School.

Father of Lucinda & Amara, Patrick Watts MBE was broadcasting live to the entire Falkland Islands population when the Argentines invaded on the 2nd of April 1982. He continued to work in the radio station throughout the occupation, determined to maintain a British presence on the radio despite the intrusion by Argentine military officers.

I have taught at the Infant and Junior School for around fifteen years, teaching children between the ages of 5 – 11 years. I am now a member of the senior management team which includes a local Deputy Head, Karen Steen.

The school has grown in size tremendously; it currently has 260 pupils and has had three extensions since I was a pupil there. We follow the English National Curriculum which is modified to include local History and Geography. As History co-ordinator the teaching of local history is something I am passionate about; for example children now learn about the Stanley peat slips of the late 19th00s and they visit a peat bog where they are shown the Falkland’s traditional peat-cutting method. (Very few households in the Falklands use peat for fuel as opposed to the majority 30 years ago.)

I was born in the Falkland Islands and enjoyed an idyllic and carefree childhood growing up in Stanley in the 1970s. I recall long summer days, many of which were spent on the beach with my sister and aunt, as well as playing at the ‘peat-bog’ whilst my father spent many hours cutting hundreds of cubic yards of peat. At the age of 15 I attended Peter Symonds College in Winchester, gaining 3 ‘A’ levels. At this point overseas education was still being funded by the British Government. I went on to read History at Reading University from where I graduated with a BA Honours degree. This was funded by the Falkland Islands Government which was by then benefiting from the revenue of the newly-created off-shore fishing zones. A further one year Post Graduate Certificate in Education course qualified me to teach Primary School children.

Despite being away for so long I always knew my real home was in the Falklands. My ambition was also to ‘re-pay’ the Government which funded my university education and also to encourage and motivate other young Islanders to achieve their potential.

The events of 1982 made me determined to succeed and help build a better future for the Falklands. The sacrifice, given by the British Servicemen, was a great inspiration to us all. It ensured a more positive and secure future for all the inhabitants for which we will be eternally grateful.

I hope the Falklands will continue to progress in the way that it has over the past 30 years but will still retain its unique identity.
The Philli Ps family first came to the Falklands in 1862, with the first child born in 1876, and we have worked in farming since then.

My parents bought Mount Kent farm in 1980 when the larger farms around the Islands were subdivided giving, for the first time, Falkland Islanders an opportunity to own a piece of their own country. Family-size farms were born and a new farming era began.

In 1989 my parents sold Mount Kent farm and bought Hope Cottage Farm, a better piece of land, which was more productive and a greater opportunity.

My wife Shula and I bought the farm from my parents on January 1, 2009 continuing many of the farming changes made by my parents.

The Falkland Islands Meat Company (FIMCo) has introduced the biggest change in the modern farm, with opportunities of an income from meat to enhance our wool revenue. For many years reliant only on a wool income, Falklands farming went through very hard times with the collapse of wool prices in the late 1980s, and now with a dual income we should be able to sustain a fall in either enterprise without falling into times of poverty again.

We will have an income split of 66/33, with wool still being our main income, but farmers do not have the same confidence in wool as they did many years ago.

We plant crops and grass to finish our stock for FIMCo to boost our meat income, as they pay on quality and weight; FIMCo also gives us the ability to increase production with the export of meat from the EU-approved abattoir.

We do an artificial insemination programme with both our sheep and cattle to improve our genetics, providing a better income from both meat and wool.

Farming has never been in a better position, and we firmly believe we have a great future to look forward to. I remain committed to living off the land we own, and we will always feel indebted to all involved in liberating the Falklands in 1982.

We have a six year old daughter who loves being out in the Camp, she is an absolute animal lover. There are three girls in the area all around the same age, with a travelling teacher moving on a weekly basis from farm to farm; Bekka day-trips for two weeks to the other farms for her schooling and the other girls do the same when the teacher is at Hope Cottage.

I think its really good that we can give her the chance to live in the Camp if she chooses to when she is older.
Stephen Luxton

Stephen Luxton is the Falkland Islands Government’s Director of Mineral Resources. He lives at Mullet Creek, just outside Stanley, with his wife, Sue.

James Wallace

James Wallace is the European representative for Falklands fishing company, Fortuna Ltd, of which his father is Managing Director. He was born and grew up in Stanley and now splits his time between the Falklands and Amsterdam, where he lives with his young family.

Stephen Luxton

Stephen Luxton was deported to the UK, where he became notable for giving revealing interviews about his experiences with the Argentine military, bringing the issue to life for UK audiences.

Along with his wife, Patricia, and son, Stephen, shortly after the invasion Bill Luxton was deported to the UK, where he became notable for giving revealing interviews about his experiences with the Argentine military, bringing the issue to life for UK audiences.

Shane Wallace was a member of the Falkland Islands Defence Force living in Stanley when he was expelled from the capital by the Argentine forces who deemed him a troublemaker. Along with wife Silvia and two children, Fiona and James, he was sent to Fox Bay Camp for the duration of the conflict.

FORTUNA WAS ONE of the first locally owned companies to fish in Falklands waters following the declaration of the economic exclusion zone after the conflict. More than twenty-five years on, it is the leading producer and marketer of Falkland fish. It is the foremost producer of Loligo squid and Illex squid, the main target species, Loligo and Illex squid, the main target species, in the region. Fish is processed and packed on board its fleet of factory freezer vessels and transported to markets around the world.

The capital for the development of the local fishing industry is the fishery’s rights-based quota system (ITQ). The reliance of the Islands’ economy on the fishery resource makes conservation and rational use matters of national importance. The fishery’s rights-based quota system (ITQ) encourages everyone to take the long term view and gives greater economic relevance to preserving the stock. As a result of the modern measures and policy in place and the high quality of scientific work carried out in the Islands, the fishery is internationally recognised as one of the best managed in the world.

The developments of the local fishing industry are equally impressive. The small undisbursed sector has managed in difficult circumstances to advance at a rate well beyond that of any other of the world’s small coastal states. The natural variability of stocks of the main target species, Loligo and Illex squid, the remote location of the fishery, a lack of local skilled and experience, and fisheries policy based for the first twenty years on annual licences with no guarantee of renewal were all significant obstacles to growth. The high risk investments made during those uncertain times are today generating returns for the Islands and the rights-based quota system introduced in 2008 is encouraging more local investment in fishing assets and expertise.

In a remote fishery like the Falklands one of the first challenges is logistics, transporting the fish to market. Operators have coped well by transporting fish aboard fishing vessels and co-ordinating exports with European-based intermediaries. The recently introduced container service operating from the Islands enables exporters to make direct exports from the Islands and integrate further into the global seafood business.

Falkland fish is internationally recognised as premium quality wild-caught seafood and the prominence of the Falkland’s brand provides an excellent platform for the export of new species of previously unexploited fish that are currently under study.

The fishing industry and the seafood trade are dynamic and fast-paced sectors to work in and being part of a primary industry during such a fundamental stage of growth is incredibly exciting. The sense of advancement and expansion into new territory brings a personal satisfaction that is exceptional in most careers.
This is our home and we are the custodians of our environment.

Eco-tourism is the cornerstone of our tourism industry and we welcome visitors who come to see our beautiful and abundant wildlife. We are always learning more about our natural surroundings and ways to better protect and conserve them. This is where we belong and we will seek ways to reserve our environment for future generations.
Islands. My passion is this environment and I, and unique environment of the Falkland dependent or closely linked to the exquisite the future, potentially hydrocarbons. All are fisheries, agriculture, tourism and, looking to the future, initially experience the awesome wildlife habitats and breath-taking scenery. I have been the world, as well as being home to unique seabird and marine mammal populations in the most beautiful, important and accessible the falkland islands. I have been fortunate to experience the awesome wildlife just welcomed their son, Nicholas, into the world and were trying to buy a farm on East Falkland when the conflict broke out.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS holds some of the most beautiful, important and accessible seabird and marine mammal populations in the world, as well as being home to unique habitats and breath-taking scenery. I have been fortunate to experience the awesome wildlife and environment of the Falkland Islands first-hand from a young age, and to compare it with that of many other parts of the world. The economy of the Falklands is built on fisheries, agriculture, tourism and, looking to the future, potentially hydrocarbons. All are dependent on closely linked to the unique and environment of the Falkland Islands. My passion is this environment and I, like many Falkland Islanders, hope to be able to help preserve and enhance it for the future generations.

The Falkland Islands environment faces many challenges. Pressure from the development of our economy is perhaps the greatest threat to our environment. The diverse biodiversity found in the Falklands must be better understood and preserved into the future despite these pressures. I grew up in Stanley, but spent a lot of time in the Camp as a child, particularly on Pebble Island as my father ran Pebble Lodge for several years in the mid 1980s and I also visited Camp settlements with my mother when she worked at Camp Education. In the late 1990s, my parents bought Bleaker Island and I have spent a lot of time there subsequently. After attending school in Stanley I attended Peter Symonds College in Winchester for two very memorable years to take my A-Levels before studying for four years to gain my bachelor's degree in geography, and politics at the University of Sheffield. After a year working as a graduate trainee in the Falklands I returned to the UK to read my Masters degree in Environmental Management at the University of Manchester. I then spent a year working in an Environmental Consultancy in Manchester before I returned to the Falklands in 2009 to take up my current position as Environmental Officer with the Falkland Islands Government.

I have not found anywhere else in the world that compares with the unique lifestyle and culture of the Falklands. The opportunities here, considering our size and population, far outweigh the geographical isolation. For one of the smallest countries on the globe we have a huge amount going for us – not least our environment, culture, and individuality. The Falklands is continuing to grow economically and the future looks bright. We are at a crossroads and have the opportunity to develop our society as a model of progressive, sustainable and green growth while further improving our special quality of life.

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LIKE MANY FALKLANDS students I went to Britain to continue my studies, spending six years away in total. If I’m honest, I hadn’t planned to return to the Falklands immediately after university; I thought the Islands were too small, too quiet; “Maybe in ten years” I told myself.

But I came home anyway to do a year’s contract working at sea on fishing boats as a biologist. Six years later, I am still in the Falklands and have just bought a house with my partner. I’ve never regretted coming back. I might head off and see the world for a few years and get some work experience elsewhere, but I have little doubt that I’ll be back before too long; this is home.

I work on land now, looking at the freshwater environment and the interaction between the introduced and invasive brown trout and our critically endangered native fish. Many people think the Falklands’ rivers are just about sea trout, but we should do what we can to protect all the species for which this place is home, in the same way that we would like others to respect our right to live here. I think environmental stewardship is very important for the Islands; the environment is one of the things that make this place great. There is a lot to learn, and a lot to be done, and there’s nowhere I’d rather be working right now.

Away from work I like to be active and outdoors, either with the Falkland Islands Defence Force and the fire service, or on my own time, walking, camping or doing sport (I’m a second-rate windsurfer and a beginner kite-surfer/buggier). Mostly though, I’m pretty happy just having the time to do a bit of gardening and watch the chickens scratch around, or walk the dog on the beach. All these things make the Falklands a cool place to be: freedom, space and nature.

I suppose I’m fortunate that for me (and my age group) the conflict is a reference point, a history lesson, and not a living memory. That doesn’t make me less proud to be British, or less grateful for the sacrifices made to protect us, but the conflict itself is almost an abstract concept. What is tangible though is the sense of freedom and opportunity bestowed upon us. These are interesting (some would say difficult) times for the Islands, but we’ll pull through; we owe it to ourselves, and to others.

Daniel Fowler was born in Stanley on April 13th, 1982, while the Falklands were under occupation. He is currently working towards a Master of Research degree in sustainable aquaculture and fisheries.

He lives in Stanley with his partner, Zoe.
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