



Falklands Focus

NEWS FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT
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Welcome!

The Falkland Islands has played host to a number of important visitors over the past six months.

Parliamentarians

In November, British Parliamentarians Vera Baird MP, Alun Cairns Welsh Assembly Member, Alan Campbell MP and Dari Taylor MP visited the Falklands. Accompanied by Sukey Cameron MBE, the Falkland Islands Government UK Representative, their packed itinerary included meetings with Councillors, officials and the Governor. The visitors said that Islanders must meet challenges from Argentina head on and thanked them for the warm hospitality they received. They were also impressed by the Islands' magnificent wildlife.



(Left - Right) Vera Baird MP, Alun Cairns AM, Dari Taylor MP, Alan Campbell MP

Four Canadian Parliamentarians arrived in the Islands in January to learn more about Falkland issues and to explore areas of mutual interest including trade and tourism. The delegation was impressed by the economic potential of the Falklands. They were also sympathetic to the political situation the Islands face saying: "Canada can be well-positioned to be a champion of the very important acknowledgement of the Falkland Islands right to self-determination".

Maritime Conference

In February, the Islands hosted the annual Red Ensign Conference. Over twenty delegates attended, representing eleven UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies whose shipping registers are subject to the regulations of the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). Topics discussed included maritime safety, new shipping legislation and environmental issues. For more information visit: www.redensigngroup.org

Cruise Ships

Over 75 cruise ships carrying approximately 40,000 passengers have visited the Islands, including the Queen Elizabeth II in late November. In February, around 1,000 passengers and crew from the *MV Amsterdam* experienced the true meaning of Falklands hospitality when Stanley residents opened-up their homes overnight after the visitors were left stranded ashore due to strong winds. Guests expressed their wish to reciprocate the kind hospitality received.

Falkland Islanders Reach Out

The devastating effects of Hurricane Ivan in Grenada and the tsunami in Asia struck a chord with Falkland Islanders who quickly sought to help.



Stanley, the capital of the Islands

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan, the Islands recognised the need of a fellow small Commonwealth country and donated its full international Disaster Relief budget of £5,000. The Grenada Ministry of Education identified the Community Library in St John's Parish for restoration.

Falkland Islanders have contributed over £28,000 to the Disaster Emergency Committee's Tsunami Earthquake Appeal, equating to £12 per capita. The Falklands' response is typical of its generous aid to many causes internationally.



QE2 in Port William