

# PLATINUM JUBILEE CIVIC HONOURS COMPETITION

## APPLICATION FORM

### COVER SHEET

<b>Name of place applying:</b> Stanley, capital city of the Falkland Islands
<b>City status / Lord Mayor or Provost status:</b> City Status
<b>Local authority:</b> Falkland Islands Government
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## Application summary

The Falkland Islands are a small archipelago comprising two main islands – East and West Falkland – and a further 778 smaller islands, covering an area half the size of Wales. The Islands are a British Overseas Territory have a long-term and deep affiliation with the UK, despite being 8,000 miles away in the South Atlantic, and 400 miles from the coast of South America. The incredible story of Stanley, our capital, and the Falkland Islands as a whole, is exceptionally difficult to share in a handful of pages; however, there are a range of reasons why Stanley is perfectly positioned to receive city status in 2022 – a very special year for both Her Majesty The Queen and the Falkland Islands.

In 2022, the Falkland Islands will once again be in the global spotlight, as we remember, reflect and celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands. That will provide us all with the opportunity to contemplate the terrible events that took place four short decades ago, but also to appreciate how much has been achieved with the hard-won freedom that was given back to us on 14 June 1982. We intend for the year to be one of ‘Looking Forward at Forty’, with a firm focus on the positive steps that we have taken since the war and how we intend to build on this success in order to ensure the continued social, economic and political growth of the Islands.

The people, buildings and public spaces of Stanley suffered terribly during the 74 days of Argentine occupation in 1982. While, many of those physical and mental scars remain today, in the intervening 40 years, Stanley has been transformed. As with most other places in the world, we have experienced a subdued time during the pandemic, however in 2022 we look forward to welcoming back veterans to the Islands, to demonstrate our overwhelming gratitude for their sacrifice and to showcase to the world how far we have come, with a range of events, activities and parades planned during the year.

One such parade will take place on the Queen’s birthday on 21 April, which is an annual public holiday in the Falkland Islands. Stanley is at the heart of these celebrations, with the parade taking place on Victory Green. We will also be marking Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee with a four-day long weekend for Falkland Islanders to observe the historic and unparalleled milestone that this occasion represents. The community spirit within Stanley and the wider Falklands has served to create a strong sense of togetherness over time, with people joining forces in times of jubilation, remembrance or need – the latter has been particularly pertinent during Covid-19, where the success of having kept the virus at bay to date has been largely due to conscientious citizenship and a shared sense of responsibility.

It is well known that our small island nation, close neighbour to the Antarctic, is demonstrably British; from its red telephone and post boxes, to the iconic London Routemaster parked on the East Jetty, and the countless Union flags – alongside Falkland Islands flags which also incorporate the union colours – that can be seen fluttering in Stanley’s infamous winds. Over the years the Islands have played their part in supporting the UK, as a visit to Christ Church Cathedral in Stanley will prove, where the walls are decorated with memorials to Falkland Islanders who lost their lives during the First and Second World Wars. This contribution continues to this day, with a number of young Islanders currently serving in the British Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy. The streets of Stanley are named both for the generations of people who chose to come and make their home here, as well as to those who have contributed from afar – we hope to take you on a journey of our special home through the course of this application, and hope that you will look favourably on our bid which, if successful, would mean the world to the people of the Falkland Islands.

## **Distinct identity**

Despite Stanley and the Falkland Islands having a relatively short history in global terms, it is a history full of colour and vibrancy, which has resulted in a 21<sup>st</sup> century melting pot of culture and tradition. Permanent settlement only took place in the early nineteenth century and Stanley was not established as the capital until in 1845. Many Falkland Islanders are in the unusual position of being able to trace their heritage back at least eight or even nine generations, with many descendants still choosing to live here today. The surnames Biggs, Goss, Short and Watson are a few of the family names that have a lineage which reaches as far back as 1842.

Unlike many other island communities, we have never had an indigenous population to influence the identity of Islanders. The first notable migration to the Islands was in 1849 with the arrival of 30 Chelsea Pensioners and their families. These were not the Chelsea Pensioners that we know today, but young former soldiers, specifically recruited by the British Government as they were considered to have the appropriate skillset to settle and thrive in the newly established capital, Stanley, named after the three-times Prime Minister Edward George Geoffrey Smith Stanley.

Our pioneering men, women and children came not just from the UK, but from all over the world, from North and South America, Europe, even as far afield as Australia and New Zealand. Each person brought with them their own heritage, beliefs and dreams, which combined to shape the distinct identity of the Falkland Islands. Today, our population comprises more than 60 nationalities, creating a unique and multicultural community which underpins the individuality of the Falkland Islands character. We are a diaspora of many nations, many talents and many traditions, which combine to make a vibrant and colourful society, three quarters of which call Stanley home.

Unlike other towns, Stanley is deeply connected with its rural hinterland, known as Camp (derived from the Spanish 'campo') – an area combining extensive sheep farms with wild and rugged hills, and coastal scenery. The integration between Stanley and Camp extends across society. Stanley acts as a centre for public services – from health and education, fire and police, leisure and retail – some of which are mirrored out in Camp, for example the provision of 'medicine chests' in the more remote settlements. On the cusp of the town is a facility for processing and exportation of meat and wool, all of which can also be bought locally, and underlines the harmony between urban and rural living in the Falkland Islands. Here people still work off the land and sea, but also run export or hospitality businesses which use local produce, combining traditional fishing and farming practices, with modern and sustainable approaches to maintaining their livelihoods. Many Stanley residents have homes in the Camp and vice versa, but unlike in other places, these are not purely 'holiday homes' but form part of the overall ecosystem of the Islands; for example, Stanley residents have a good knowledge of rural life and often form a casual summer workforce to support rural businesses during busy seasons.

People are peaceful, hard-working and stoic, they choose to live and work in one of the last great wildernesses of the world, viewing challenges and opportunities as different sides of the same coin. Despite being small, the Islands are characterised by our huge sense of community, comprising people from across the world who celebrate and value difference, but are united in the same collective aim – to protect, promote and prosper in this incredibly special place that we all call home. Added together, these shared influences create a unique landscape, culture and identity.

## **Civic pride**

Civic pride is evident across the Islands, and is inherent in the way in which the community regularly joins together in a plethora of annual events which serve both as a reminder of our culture and heritage, as well as a celebration of occasions which we share more widely with the rest of the world.

For example, in common with many other countries, we celebrate Good Friday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day – all of which are public holidays. However, Falkland Islanders uphold our unique sense of civic pride, by determining our own public holidays, for example 'Peat Cutting Monday', which takes place annually at the beginning of October. Peat was a vital resource for the development of the town and wider communities, particularly prior to the development of Stanley power station. Despite the physically demanding nature of the peat cutting process, its role as a source of heat for early pioneers continues to be lauded, and is still a tradition practiced in small pockets of society.

The Falkland Islands is also one of the few places in the world to actively celebrate the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's real birthday on 21 April. Each year, Stanley plays host to a special parade on Victory Green, followed by a military march past and an RAF fly past. Taking part in the parade are contingents of the UK Armed Forces, Falkland Islands Defence Force and members of Stanley's youth groups, including Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Scouts. This important occasion allows Islanders the opportunity to demonstrate our loyalty to the Crown and pay our respects to The Queen.

One of the core dates in the Stanley social calendar is the Stanley Sports Race Meeting, which takes place from 26-27 December every year. Facilitated by the Stanley Sports Association, horses and riders come from East and West Falklands to compete in horse racing, gymkhana and spectator foot events. The Governor's Cup is the most prestigious race on the programme, with early settlers first competing for the illustrious prize in 1847. Today, the Stanley Sports Race Meeting remains a popular event, bringing together people from across the Islands, including residents, military personnel and tourists, which takes place at the world's most southerly racecourse.

Naturally, the events of 74 days in 1982 are still very much in living memory across the Falkland Islands. Every year, throughout the months of April, May and June, Islanders gather at memorials at specific battle sites to pay our respects and remember the sacrifice and bravery of the individuals who fought in the Falklands War. The people of the Falkland Islands remain forever grateful for the efforts of the UK taskforce and Liberation Day on 14 June is a very emotional day for the whole community; a time to remember and give thanks, but also an opportunity for Islanders to celebrate our freedom, our right to self-determination and to be proud of our national identity. In 2022, the world will again turn its attention to the Falkland Islands, as we mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a year-long programme of events and functions taking place in Stanley, Camp and in the UK. Coinciding with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Islands will come together earlier in June to take part in additional celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee. With an additional two public holidays, Islanders will be able to reflect on this historic milestone and acknowledge the outstanding contribution that Her Majesty has made to public life.

Finally, in more recent years, our sense of civic pride has taken on an environmental focus. As custodians of one of the last great wildernesses in the world, we have seen the impacts of climate change first-hand, from the erosion of tussac grass to plastic debris washing up on our shores, and we have elected to take these matters into our own hands. Volunteer events for tussac planting and targeted beach cleans are now a regular part of our community calendar and incredibly well attended.

## Cultural infrastructure

The cultural infrastructure and architecture of the Falkland Islands can only be described as idiosyncratic; developed through the efforts, influence and ambitions of the people who have put down roots here over the years. Today, more than 3,200 people live here, with over three quarters of people residing in Stanley. The Falkland Islands is considered home by individuals from more than 60 countries, including the UK, St Helena, Zimbabwe, Philippines and Chile (the largest diaspora outside of mainland Chile), and this number is increasing with population growth averaging 3% year on year.

Due to our remote location, Stanley hosts little physical cultural infrastructure – such as performance spaces, art galleries or studios – instead, Islanders have embraced their resourcefulness in order to develop quirky and pragmatic approaches in order to generate a thriving creative and cultural sector. Living in a small and semi-rural community, innovation is a necessary part of daily life and it is our relative isolation that actively drives our creativity. For example, Stanley does not have a dedicated theatre, however, the local amateur dramatics group hosts regular productions throughout the year, using the Town Hall as a makeshift playhouse. Similarly, there are no permanent exhibition spaces in Stanley, but through boundless initiative, Islanders have created temporary art galleries, from displays hosted in restaurants to utilising seafront railings for an al fresco showcase on Stanley's front road.

The buildings, places and spaces of Stanley, come together to form the fabric of our home and to tell the story of our cultural development over time. Stanley in particular has an abundance of landmarks which highlight the many facets of our heritage and way of life. From Cartmell Cottage, one of Stanley's original residential properties used to recreate periods of Falklands history from the 1840s to the 1860s, to Gilbert House, originally used as a cottage hospital and the headquarters for the local Volunteer Force, but now home to our democratically-elected Legislative Assembly. Our distinctive Whalebone Arch – replicated in our sibling town of Whitby in the UK – is flanked by Christ Church Cathedral, built between 1890-1892 on the site of Holy Trinity Church, which was destroyed by the peat slip that devastated parts of Stanley in 1866. Despite our short history, we have over 50 listed buildings and structures designated as being of architectural or historic interest – from Jubilee Villas to the old gaol and blacksmith's, and from stone corrals to the old stables on Racecourse Road.

The built environment is only part of what makes Stanley special, as a small urban oasis in the midst of some of the most exceptional land and seascapes in the world. Stanley is surrounded by what is locally known as 'Stanley Common'. Featuring an array of habitats and environments, including mountains to the west which were pivotal to the battles fought in the final days of the Falklands War, as well as vast grasslands to the east. Until recently, much of the common and surrounding areas were active minefields, however in November 2020 the last minefield was cleared, and in a symbolic event named 'Reclaim the Beach', two young Falkland Islanders were invited to press the button on the final detonation and open the final fence to restore access to Yorke Bay, which had been inaccessible since 1982. To the south of Stanley is vast coastline and, standing proud on the horizon, is the Falkland Islands' only lighthouse – Cape Pembroke – built in 1855. This is a favoured spot for watching wildlife, including Southern Right Whales, Sei Whales and the odd pod of Orcas; whereas further down the coastline towards Gypsy Cove, sea lions and penguins are a common sight. You do not even have to travel out of town to marvel at these mammals – in the summer, a series of cheeky seals regularly park themselves on the harbour public jetty and bask in the attention given from residents and visiting cruise ship passengers. They appear so often, we should probably include them in the national census!

## **Vibrant and welcoming community**

Falkland Islanders are well known for our hospitality and generosity, which extends across multiple avenues of society. From extending a warm welcome to new people wishing to make this place their home, to fundraising thousands of pounds for the 35 locally registered charities, founded in response to a specific cause within the community, such as to support families requiring advanced medical treatment, or to provide social activities for different generations of people, friendliness is the foundation of Falkland Islands. The generosity of the Islanders is not restricted to the local community however; people here actively support numerous overseas charities such as the South Atlantic Medal Association 1982 and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Support has also been given to the multiple overseas relief causes over the years, including the Indonesian tsunami and the Australian Bushfire Appeal. One outstanding example of the compassion of the community was the effort made to raise money to buy ten Spitfires to support British military efforts during the Second World War.

Our population mix is part of why life in the Falkland Islands is so rich and varied, and why tradition and heritage complement more contemporary celebrations. For example, Stanley is arguably the most southerly point in the world which celebrates Pride; as a nation forged by individuals from diverse backgrounds, it is only natural we would also choose to take part in a movement which brings together people in love and friendship, and opposes social stigma. Indeed, the Falkland Islands were one of the first, and few, places in the world where marriage and civil partnerships are permissible for everyone.

The social and ethnic diversity of our population is embedded within our community and culture. Over the last four decades, many Chilean and St Helenian nationals have chosen to live in the Falkland Islands and have brought with them an array of traditions, from national dishes, to dances, dress and events. By way of celebrating this diversity and in recognition of the commitment many of these nationals have made to the Islands, Government House holds annual receptions for these groups within our society, including Chilean Independence Day, St Helena Day and Filipino Independence Day. We are also proud that some Zimbabwean deminers who bravely helped to restore our home to us, have elected to stay here after that work was complete, in order to put down roots and raise families.

With the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands approaching, the community is again coming together to prepare for this significant year. As part of the celebrations, it is hoped that many veterans and families will be able to return to the Islands, although with Stanley being relatively small, our commercial accommodation options are limited. To overcome this, local residents will be opening their own homes to welcome returning veterans and families, as they have done for the last four decades, giving a whole new meaning to the concepts of homestay and hospitality.

The vibrancy of the Falkland Islands is also reflected in words which have been brought to our shores. These include those adopted from Spanish, particularly terminology used by early gaucho horsemen, to describe riding gear, or words for specific weather conditions every day expressions such as 'paso libre' for 'cattle grid'. Today, many expressions are still in common use, for example a smoko signifies a morning break in work for food and drink, and if you see a friend in a street, you're likely to shout across to them "Hey Chay!" (a South American Indian word for 'friend'). These terms are used by the whole community, regardless of people's original background or origin, and words are another way in which people feel a sense of belonging, by sharing common expressions that are unique to the Falkland Islands and to our inclusive sense of community.

## **Record of innovation**

Innovation in Stanley and the wider Falkland Islands was born from the need find creative answers to overcome challenges that require homegrown solutions, due to our remote location. For example, the Falkland Islands do not benefit from an extensive road network or from public transport, meaning that Islanders have had to develop alternative ways in which to transport people, post and provisions between location. To this end, in 1948 the Falkland Islands Government Aviation Service (FIGAS) was established, which gradually evolved from an air ambulance and mail service to transporting residents, livestock and even tourists. Operating from Stanley Airport, made famous from the Vulcan bomber raids in 1982, FIGAS remains an essential part of the Falklands way of life, and their cheerful red fleet of aircraft are a regular sight in the skies above the town and across the Islands.

Infrastructure innovation is also evidenced in the way that the Falkland Islands generates its energy. 30% of energy used in Stanley comes from renewable sources, with that figure rising to 90% in Camp, through a combined use of wind turbines and solar panels. Furthermore, we have set ourselves an ambitious target for Stanley's primary electrical supply to be 100% renewable by 2050. This keen focus on the environment is also why we were invited to be part of the 2020 Virtual Island Summit, which brings together the private sector, governments, NGOs and academia to advance innovation for sustainability in island communities worldwide, as well as COP26 in the UK in November 2021.

Our affiliation with the sea and our maritime heritage sees that we are uniquely positioned to implement new ways of ensuring sustainable development in the fishing sector, which provides almost half of our annual Gross Domestic Product. The introduction of the Fisheries Conversation zones and a new management regime in 1986 transformed the fortunes of the Falkland Islands, and as the fishing sector expanded, the need for innovative new practices became apparent. Stanley, home to the Fisheries Department, has been the driving force behind the development of a range of world-leading bycatch mitigation measures, including the use of tori lines to deter birds and Seal Excluder Devices (SEDS). This approach, combined with our ongoing commitment to funding research and environment protection – equal to 8% of the total government budget – means that we seek to continually remain at the cutting edge for fishing industry science and innovation.

The global pandemic has also afforded us opportunities to innovate, as a remote community needing to protect its limited local health service and find solutions to financial and logistical problems. We swiftly developed a raft of business support measures to help protect the local economy and, at the same time, worked with the UK government to develop an in-island Covid-19 testing capability using the hospital's laboratory. Through careful logistical planning we have also enabled the British Antarctic Survey, and other polar expedition operators, to conduct vital climate change research in Antarctica, by developing a safe system to support the transit of crew, equipment and supplies between the UK and the Falkland Islands – ensuring that we could remain a physical gateway to the continent.

While we were able to support polar scientists, we were not able to host an international tourism season, and both our regular cruise vessels and weekly commercial airlinks with South America have been suspended since March 2020. However, in order to support our tourism industry, we put in place a Tourism Recovery Incentive Programme – or 'TRIP' – designed to stimulate economic growth across the Islands by providing residents, including military personnel, with electronic vouchers to spend on a 'staycation'. This proved hugely successful and generated over £1m for local providers.

## **Sound governance and administration**

The Falkland Islands is a thriving, forward-looking country that is economically self-sufficient and internally self-governing, except for foreign affairs and defence support from the United Kingdom. As a proud member of the UK family, we are a beacon for British values, with a fiscally responsible and democratic government based in Stanley, open and transparent administration, and adherence to the rule of law and to human rights frameworks. We have been progressive in adopting and adapting measures to respect changes in modern society, including individual rights, freedoms and equality.

After becoming the capital of the Islands in 1845, Stanley was home to the Legislative Council for just under 164 years but, following dramatic changes to the constitution, the Legislative Council became the Legislative Assembly on 1 January 2009. The Legislative Assembly consists of eight elected members who represent two constituencies – Stanley has five representatives and Camp has three. All members are elected as independents as there are no political parties in the Falkland Islands and we hold a General Election every four years, with the most recent taking place on 4 November 2021.

While Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs do not take on the role of ministers, there is a portfolio system in place which defines each elected representative's area of responsibility; within each portfolio there are one or more department, agencies, committees and other boards or structures that they work alongside with and without government. The work of MLAs can range from attending international political summits, including the United Nations Special Committee of Decolonization (C-24) and the Joint Ministerial Council to opening new local services or constituency work – the Falkland Islands Government operates as a parish council, a local authority and an international government, all rolled into one.

Policy proposals and strategies are considered by the Executive Council (ExCo) which usually sits once a month, with MLAs electing three of their number, on rotation, to sit on the policy making body of government. Legislative Assembly is held once a month, and ensures that all decisions agreed by ExCo have been subject to the correct democratic review process prior to enactment. The Legislative Assembly is empowered by the Constitution to pass legislation for peace, order and good governance.

This system of administration is not without its challenges. Sound governance and leadership of the Falkland Islands Government and its elected representatives particularly came to the fore during the Covid-19 pandemic. At the beginning, the onus was on public safety, protection and repatriation. Approximately 1,000 visitors to the Islands were given safe passage home through the efforts of the government, the private sector and British Forces South Atlantic Islands. A rigorous set of public health measures were put in place, including a strict quarantine regime and the implementation of a policy to prohibit non-essential travellers from visiting the Islands. To date there have only been 83 positive cases detected in the Islands, all have since recovered, and none of which involved community transmission, but were detected in quarantine using a Covid-19 surveillance swabbing regime.

With the help of the UK Government, the Falkland Islands Government has also rolled out a successful vaccination programme, including a travelling vaccine programme via the FIGAS, to reach everyone living in the smaller settlements around the Falkland Islands. 95% of all eligible Islanders are now fully vaccinated and we are in the process of providing everyone over the age of 18 with a booster in late 2021/early 2022 (in line with the latest Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation guidance), helping to keep people safe and protect the Islands' only hospital from overwhelming pressures.

## Associations with royalty

The Falkland Islands relationship with the Royal Family is a timeless one, from customs and traditions, through to official visits and landmark events, we have a very genuine and close bond. Each time we have welcomed a member of the Royal Family to our shores, they have made a lasting impression on our home and in our hearts, and we consider ourselves very loyal subjects to Her Majesty The Queen.

One of the first of many royal visits, and a particularly memorable one, was by HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in 1957. During his four days in the Islands, the Duke managed to fit a vast amount of activities into his visit, including a special Gymkhana at Stanley Racecourse, organised in his honour. Getting into the spirit of the event, the Duke took part in the 'Sailors Race' and subsequently went on to win, and his trophy remain on proud display at the Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh. The Duke later returned to the Islands for a second visit in 1991, where we were once again overwhelmed with his interest and enthusiasm for our people, our home and our history.

In 1996, The Princess Royal also visited the Islands, and the community arranged a special race meeting to tie in with her visit to Stanley. Unlike her father, the Princess was not persuaded to take part in any of the horse races, However, she very kindly presented a local jockey with the 'Princess Royal's Plate'. The Princess Royal was welcomed again in 2007, 2009 and 2016 as she passed through Stanley on her way to South Georgia and Antarctica, as patron of the South Georgia and the Antarctic Heritage Trusts. The Princess Royal also laid the foundation stone at our Infant and Junior School and officially opened the Cathedral Hall – both of which are located in Stanley. Indeed, such was her impression on the length and breadth of the Islands, that her signature appears on the very first page of the Hill Cove Social Club visitor book on West Falkland!

HRH Prince Edward joined the official UK delegation for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands in 2007, alongside Sir Rex Hunt who was the Governor during the war. The Islands also welcomed HRH The Prince of Wales in 1999, who is a patron of the South Atlantic Medal Association, and Princess Alexandra in 2000, who is a patron of the Falkland Islands Trust and has one of only a very small handful of wooded areas in the Islands, named in her honour.

In April 2011, the Falkland Islands community joined some three billion people worldwide to watch the royal wedding of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Stanley celebrated this memorable day with a 'William and Kate: Let's Celebrate' event. The highlight of the celebration was a bridal parade, featuring women of all ages wearing wedding gowns from over six difference decades. The event took place all day, with coverage of the wedding being broadcast internationally, and was a day of patriotism, joy and excitement. This excitement continued the following year, when the Islands briefly became home to HRH Prince William, when he was deployed to RAF Mount Pleasant for a six-week tour as a search and rescue helicopter pilot; providing a vital lifeline for the remote communities and surrounding waters of the Falkland Islands. The Prince instantly made an impression on the community and was welcomed with open arms and treated like one of their own. Islanders still fondly talk about the time that he unexpectedly visited The Victory Bar in Stanley to have a couple of pints with the locals, where he totally disarmed them with his good humour and easy-going nature.

Even when we do not have the prospect of a visit, the Royal Family are never far from our thoughts, and two of our main Stanley thoroughfares are named 'Diamond Jubilee Way' and 'Prince Philip Street' – roads which fittingly intersect and are clear symbols of our respect, affection and admiration.

## **Distinctive features**

As outlined throughout this application, Stanley is undoubtedly a unique capital city. It is through the resourcefulness and determination of Islanders and our generations of home-grown innovation and resilience, which have made Stanley what it is today. This prevailing attitude, together with an historic British influence and a modern-day multicultural community, all contribute to our city's individuality.

Despite being an urban settlement, Stanley is surrounded by nature, from grasslands to coastal environments, mountains to white sand beaches. The close proximity of these environs means that residents only need drive 10 minutes in any direction to enjoy all of the diversity that our outdoor spaces have to offer. The accessibility of the rural hinterland and natural environments also provides venues for various community events. The Cape Pembroke coast is host to the weekly Park Run – one of the few pursuits that enables participants to 'whale watch' as they race – and the annual Cape Pembroke Half Marathon. The Stanley Marathon which takes place each year, except during Covid-19, is also the world's most southerly marathon. Nearby beaches host the yearly mid-winter swim and the New Year's Day Raft Race, both of which are well attended by the community and military alike.

Stonemasonry and bricklaying are two trades that do not currently exist in the Islands, however there are a handful of historic buildings made from these materials, crafted by skilled former artisans, including Government House. Built in 1845 with some of the first bricks ever laid in Stanley, the property has been home to many Governors, their families and guests, including princes, princesses and former Prime Ministers. As residence to Sir Rex Hunt, the grounds of Government House saw the initial battle between the Royal Marines and invading Argentine forces take place in April 1982.

Stanley's affiliation with the reigning monarch and their jubilee anniversaries can be traced back as far as 1887. Jubilee Villas, a small terrace of houses in central Stanley, are very similar to those found in a seaside town in England, and were built by the Dean Family Company in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Terraced houses are not the buildings that typify residential properties in Stanley, instead the city is known for its Scandinavian-looking residences with brightly coloured roofs – one of which even has the Union flag painted upon it, a talking point for any new visitors to the city. A short walk from Jubilee Villas sits Christ Church Cathedral. The cathedral's foundation stone was laid in 1890 and consecrated in 1892. The church cost £12,000 to build, much of which was through fundraising, including £30 given by Queen Victoria. Stained glass windows feature in the building, some of which are dedicated to individuals who contributed to the development of Stanley, including Mary Watson, a district nurse, and George Markham Dean, one of Stanley's early entrepreneurs.

Further to the east, Liberty Lodge is run by the Falklands Veterans Foundation and provides a fully self-catered, supportive and peaceful facility for returning service personnel and their families. Local business, individuals, young people and the armed forces all contributed to the construction and landscaping of the property, which formally opened in 2009 and has been in regular use ever since.

Finally, it would be remiss to close this application without a few further words on the five species of seabirds for which the Falkland Islands are famous. Our Magellanic, Gentoo, Rockhopper, Macaroni and King penguins bring everyone such delight. Stanley is iconic for very many reasons, but where else in the world can you travel to the outskirts of a town and instantly be transported to the very fringes of nature, and watch little black and white birds return to shore under the glow of a pink and purple austral sunset which seems to stretch across the whole of the southern hemisphere skies? Thank you.