



# The James Caird Society Newsletter

Issue 25 · Summer 2019



## Influence and Inspiration

As we move towards the 100th anniversary of Shackleton's death, widely considered to mark the end of the Heroic Age of Exploration, it is timely to consider how his influence continues to inspire future generations, not just in Britain and Ireland, but all over the world. This picture by Jo Stewart shows the *Alexandra Shackleton* emulating the voyage of the *James Caird* in an Epic Expedition led by Tim Jarvis in 2013. But inspiration is not only for intrepid explorers as can be seen in the following pages, emphasising that, although Shackleton's death marked the end of an Age, it also marked a whole new beginning ...

### The Heroic Age Memorial Expedition

Shackleton's death aboard *Quest* on 5 January 1922 is considered to close the chapters of the Heroic Age in Antarctica.

It is only fitting that this momentous event is to be marked by the James Caird Society with a special voyage to Antarctica in early 2022. Plans are afoot to meet with the Chilean Navy in Punta Arenas and also to include a stop in Montevideo, Uruguay. This was where Shackleton's body was initially sent and where a memorial service was held. Here too a message was received from Lady Shackleton asking that her husband's body be returned to Grytviken for burial.

Rear Admiral Nick Lambert, Chairman of the JCS, welcomes the participation of all Polar associations to what will be a truly unique voyage honouring the life of the 'Boss.' Grytviken in South Georgia will, of course, be at the very heart of the voyage with a special service in the Norwegian church that conducted Shackleton's funeral. From there we will sail on to Antarctica.

Travel agent Ice Tracks Expeditions, together with ship operator One Ocean Expeditions, are honoured to be part of this significant event. They have worked closely on three Shackleton Centenary voyages as well as the return to Grytviken of Frank Wild's remains and, more recently, Henry Worsley's ashes.

James Caird Society members will be kept abreast of plans as they develop in the forthcoming months.

*Angie Butler*  
*angie@ice-tracks.com*

### Terry Walsh

The James Caird Society is sorry to announce the death in March this year of Terry Walsh, a founding member of the Society and a stalwart on the Committee for many years.

The Society was formed by Harding Dunnett in 1994 with the help and support of Dulwich College staff, most notably Terry Walsh who at that time was in charge of the Almeyn Club, having recently retired as Deputy Master. Harding needed a Committee he could trust and who would help him establish the Society's rules and regulations, as well as its aims and goals. Terry's astute mind and

his considerable knowledge proved invaluable in this respect, ensuring that the Society fulfilled its obligation as a registered charity whilst also promoting and honouring the feats of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Terry's attention to detail was legendary, and his role as 'kingpin' of the first committee provided the backbone that helped the fledgling Society grow and flourish.

Terry remained a great supporter of the Society, even after retiring from the committee. He rarely missed any of the Lectures or Dinners and became the arbiter of the menu that would be selected for each occasion! His enthusiasm and championship of the Society was such that, despite his illness, he even bought his ticket for the November's meeting knowing full well that he would not be able to attend.

Terry's contribution to the JCS will never be forgotten.

The 2019 AGM  
will be held at Dulwich College  
on Friday 22 November 2019,  
starting at 5.30pm.

Following the meeting there will be  
a talk by Simon Stephens,  
Curator of the Ship Model and Boat  
collections at the National Maritime  
Museum.

The May Dinner will be held on  
15 May 2020  
Speaker to be confirmed

### Elsewhere in this issue:

Page 3 The May Dinner

Page 4 Inspired by Shackleton:  
Kent Scouts: ReQuest2021

Page 5 Inspired by Shackleton:  
A Swiss Play and a Musical Gala

Page 6 Inspired by Shackleton:  
The Eastbourne Guides and the  
Haslemere Festival

Page 7 Inspired by Shackleton:  
An outstanding leader and a sell-out  
play

Pages 8 and 9 Spreading the word  
around the world:  
The President's Year

Pages 10 and 11 Shackleton's Ireland

Page 12 Autumn School and Update

Page 13 Withstanding the Elements:  
Extreme Design

Page 14 Inspired by Shackleton:  
Poetry

Page 15 Inspired by Shackleton:  
Miscellaneous

Page 16  
How to join the Society



*A selection of Sue Flood's photography*

The May Dinner took place on Friday 3 May and was, as ever, a magnificent occasion. Over 100 guests enjoyed a welcome drink (or two!) in the James Caird Hall, with the boat itself playing the starring role. We then adjourned to the Great Hall to be welcomed by Nick Lambert, Chairman of the Society.

At this point there was a slight break with tradition when our President invited the Master of Dulwich College, Dr Joe Spence, to join her for a special presentation. Speaking about the unique relationship the Society has with the College, the President reminded guests that 2019 is an important anniversary: it is 400 years since Edward Alleyn founded Alleyn's College of God's Gift. To mark the occasion, the Society presented to the College a limited edition platinum print of the famous Hurley photograph of *Endurance* in the ice. (For more information on the Hurley Platinum Prints, please email [hurleyprints@rgs.org](mailto:hurleyprints@rgs.org) or ring 020 7591 3063.)

Birthday present giving over, it was time to hear Sue Flood talk about her fascinating career as a wildlife photographer, which began by working with the legendary Sir David Attenborough. Since then Sue has travelled all over the world to the most exotic and far-flung locations, bringing back an astounding diversity of photographs which are meat and drink to those of us who are less intrepid travellers.

For the JCS audience, perhaps the finest and most moving pictures were of the most royal of birds, the Emperor penguin. Sue has an especial fondness for these rare creatures, and has captured them from cradle to grave, so to speak. Her magnificent book *Emperor: The Perfect Penguin* sums up what makes them, and their homeland, so special. (Although I myself have a soft spot for Rockhoppers!)



*Sue Flood dressed for work!*



*Our Chairman, Nick Lambert*



*Zaz presenting the 400th birthday present to Dr Joe Spence, the Master of Dulwich College*

### Kent Scouts: ReQuest2021

Kent Scouts, like so many other groups before (and no doubt to come) have used ‘the Boss’ as inspiration for a worthwhile and challenging project – in this case the Kent Scouts ReQuest2021 Antarctica Project.

Although it may have been somewhat ironic that they chose to run their Evening In Antarctica on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year so far, the event was a huge success.

On Saturday 29 June guests gathered from around the County, and beyond, in the barn at Lower Grange Farm in Kent for an evening of presentations to learn all about the Scouts’ forthcoming challenge which will see them following Shackleton’s footsteps in a special anniversary year. The guest speakers included Colin Walker (Scout Historian and Archivist), Joe Doherty (The first Scout to ski to the South Pole and kite ski back) and the Honourable Alexandra Shackleton (Sir Ernest Shackleton’s granddaughter and of course JCS President) who is also one of the project’s three supporting patrons.

The four youth participants then gave an overview of their individual Antarctic Research projects. Genevieve’s is a Physiological Experiment, Lucy’s is on Climate Change, Darcey’s is using Photography & Art and George’s is 3D Iceberg Simulation.

During winter 2021/22, the team of Scouts will be sailing on the barque Europa, one of the best known tall ships, from South America to Port Lockroy in Antarctica. Exactly 100 years after two Scouts sailed on Shackleton’s final Quest Expedition the project’s objectives will be:

- To participate as members of the crew on the Barque Europa on a voyage to Antarctica.
  - For each of the participants to carry out an Antarctic research project and present the results upon return.
  - To visit Port Lockroy base that was established by Scout James Marr and fly a Scout flag on Antarctica.
  - To unveil an expedition plaque dedicated to Marr & Mooney at Gilwell Park and Port Lockroy in Antarctica.
  - To involve the younger sections in join-in educational fun activities in the form of Antarctica In An Ice Box.
- Fundraising of all sorts is continuing to raise the money required for the expedition, with over £26,000 raised to date – only about another £59k to go! If anyone would like to find out more, please contact JCS member Alan Noake at [alan.noake@kentscouts.org.uk](mailto:alan.noake@kentscouts.org.uk)



*The ReQuest2021 Team (From Left to Right): Matt Wood, George Stonor, Darcey Holmes, Genevieve Scullion, Alan Noake (with Shackleton The Penguin!), Cathy Mummery and Lucy Morgan (not forgetting, Laura Bernard - who was unable to be present at the event.)*

## Endurance: Storia di un viaggio straordinario

A report about Endurance: Storia di un viaggio straordinario was included in the JCS Newsletter in the summer of 2014. By way of introduction, here are some extracts from that article followed by an update. Such is the success of this theatrical production that it is still being performed today, five years later.

'Shackleton's Endurance Expedition has been enacted as a stage play in Italian. The premiere was at the Teatro del Gatto, Ascona, Ticino, Switzerland on 14 December 2013. The play has also appeared at other Swiss theatres and in Italy, including to audiences of young people.'

'The show Endurance: Storia di un viaggio straordinario is an initiative of actress Stefania Mariani and photographer Michele Montalbetti from the company Stage Photography. They have been inspired by this century old adventure not just in terms of history but for the lessons that we all can learn from it today.'

'During the formative stage the production received the full support of the James Caird Society and in particular President Alexandra Shackleton and JCS committee member, Roger Slade. This included two visits by Stefania Mariani and Michele Montalbetti to the UK and in particular to the RGS, RSGS, SPRI and Dulwich College. Roger Slade attended a performance in Locarno on 15 March 2014. JCS member Giovanni Blasich also attended an earlier performance in Lugano.'

From inception in 2013 to 2019 the show has been enacted many times.

The coverage and sheer reach is impressive: 62 performances in all.

- 22 shows for adults between north Italy and the south of Switzerland.
- 40 shows in schools and more than 300 hours of linked laboratory-workshops. About 4,000 children have seen the production and been involved in these workshops to discuss the relevance of the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton to their own lives.



Stefania and Michele have also participated in some festivals for adults. These include the mountain adventure event BBB (Berg Buch Brig festival) and the literature festival of Verbania (Lago Maggiore Letteratura).

Some of the shows have been for motivational purposes such as for the hospital in Bellinzona or for Caritas Italy, for young people that have planned to go abroad to help other countries.

Finally, the play has been to Greece (2014) supporting a sailing project for young people. Given the above, the following text from the end of the 2014 article has proved to be even truer.

'The undoubted success of this venture demonstrates not just the relevance of this extraordinary adventure today, but its international appeal.'

'At a time of the centenary of the Endurance Expedition this theatrical production has proved to be an excellent venture, helping to preserve the memory, and commend the outstanding qualities of leadership of Sir Ernest Shackleton.'

*Roger Slade*

## Musical Inspiration

The James Caird Society was delighted to support a magnificent Gala occasion at the Royal Festival Hall in June when a new composition Endurance by James Redwood and Hazel Gould was performed by Lewisham Music. The spirit of the work is very much in tune with the aims of our Society, and members of the JCS were thrilled to hear about the project which was performed by around 1,000 children from over 25 Lewisham schools with two professional soloists and a professional band. Lewisham Music is an inspirational organisation which covers a large area of south London. Many of the schools involved were already familiar with the Endurance story through their educational visits to Dulwich College and the *James Caird*.

## Inspired by Shackleton

### The Shackleton Shield

On 11 May 2019, Alexandra Shackleton presented the Shackleton Shield at the Bushy Wood Guide Camp just outside Eastbourne. The Shield was originally presented to the Eastbourne Guide Association by Lady Shackleton (Emily, Ernest's wife and Alexandra's grandmother) in 1919 when she was District Commissioner of the Guides. It had been hidden in the Archives for many years but was competed for and presented in 2018 after a long gap. This

year, eight teams of local guides took part in the competition and the Shield was won by the Green Team from Pevensey Bay. While at Bushy Wood, Alexandra Shackleton also renamed the Scout Hut, which is used by both scouts and guides. Now named The Shackleton Lodge, it is currently being refurbished to provide new toilets and dormitory accommodation.



*The President with Guide Commissioner Lynette Benton having renamed the Scout Hut the Shackleton Lodge.*



*The President with the winning Green Team and the Shackleton Shield.*

## Surrey inspired by Shackleton

The Haslemere Festival, held annually in May, is known for the range of its events and the quality of its special talks and speakers. This year JCS member Stephen Scott-Fawcett was invited to talk about his 'specialist subject', Sir Ernest Shackleton. Stephen, who edits the JCS Journal, is known for his expertise on the subject, and his talk was very well received, reckoned to be 'among the best'.

Among the many points that Stephen made to illustrate what makes Shackleton such an important figure, even now almost a century after his death, was that the standard of his leadership exemplifies the best of what leadership should be. In a sense Shackleton was at the forefront of the modern age where people look for superstars to be role models. Shackleton was a genuine celebrity, known for his enterprise as well as his courage. His example, as you will see on other pages of this newsletter, is still emulated in the 21st century.

## The Shackleton Award for Outstanding Leadership

The Shackleton Award for Outstanding Leadership has been awarded for the first time. It was presented as part of the annual awards and parade ceremony aboard HMS *Flying Fox*. The picture of the ceremony shows Commanding Officer Surgeon Commander Richard Bateman presenting the award to Leading Seaman Townsend for 'selfless leadership to the Unit'. This award in Sir Ernest's name is made with the full approval of our President and shows yet again the enduring power of Shackleton's inspirational example.



---

## From Edinburgh to London



A new play about Perce Blackborow, Shackleton's infamous stowaway, was described in last year's Newsletter as it was just about to open at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. It enjoyed great success in Scotland and subsequently moved to London, where it played to enthusiastic audiences (including members of the James Caird Society Committee) during April.

Now it's on the move again! Like the source of its inspiration, the play is not content with sitting still and is now transferring to the Cervantes Theatre in London

where it will be shown from 20 August. It has gained four- and five-star reviews and been described as having an 'Absolutely beautiful and engaging script which captivates the audience and takes them along on the expedition with the characters.'

Written by Andy Dickinson and directed by Enrique Muñoz, this is part of the Shackleton story that deserves to be seen. Full details are available from [cervantestheatre.com](http://cervantestheatre.com)

## Spreading the word around the world



*Dulwich College Singapore*

### September 2018 – The Far East

The Master of Dulwich College asked the President to undertake a speaking tour for Dulwich College International: ten schools with some 9,000 students between them. This entailed a round trip taking in Seoul, Beijing, Shanghai and Suzhou (although Typhoon Mango kept her from Zhuhai), Singapore and Yangon. She was very impressed by the enthusiastic and charming students and the dedicated staff. The schools are co-educational and mostly day schools. The President lectured to senior and junior schools, and also talked to the DUCKS (five-year olds). There were several interviews for school newspapers, unveilings and so on. At one school a senior pupil asked (somewhat pompously) 'Can you assure me that no dogs were harmed during the Endurance Expedition?' The President replied (somewhat tersely) 'No. They ate them.' Apparently the questioner's parents were lawyers...

The most memorable introduction the President has ever received came from the 13-year old head of the junior school who recited the President's CV and then bellowed at the top of his voice: 'And now, I give you ... the ONE AND ONLY... Alexandra Shackleton!'

All the schools, apart from those for Chinese citizens (high schools) whose government does not permit them to attend international schools, have a Shackleton House. They have a sweatshirt which the President was asked to sign – actually on the pupil! Not an easy task. When the President pointed out that her signature would wash off, the astonished reply was 'But we are going to frame it!' The President did consider whether she was becoming spoilt...

### 24–29 September – Hong Kong

The President was at RGS Hong Kong to launch an exhibition of the Royal Geographical Society's magnificent platinum prints of the Hurley photographs.



*Dulwich College, Shanghai*



*Dulwich College, Shanghai*



RCGS Resolute

### 15 October – Canada

To Sydney Nova Scotia to attend the christening of One Ocean Expeditions' impressive new ship RCGS *Resolute*. Sadly high winds prevented the ship from coming into port but there was a party dockside the next day, so we were able to visit her then.

### 14 January 2019 – Norway

To Alesund in Norway to christen Aker Biomarine's new krill harvesting vessel *Antarctic Endurance*, named to honour Ernest Shackleton. Before laying a finger on a krill, the firm was partnered with the World Wildlife Fund and is rated A1 for sustainability. Krill is found worldwide and has many uses. The vessel, a new build, is an impressive 130m long with seven decks. It is 30% more environmentally efficient than any other trawler. When naming a vessel in Norway, one becomes its godmother and at the grand dinner on the evening of the ceremony the President was touched when each of the (many) speakers started by turning to her and saying 'Dear Godmother ...'



Aker Biomarine's CEO Matts Johansen and The Hon. Alexandra Shackleton on board *Antarctic Endurance* during the naming ceremony on 18 January 2019

### 11 May – Sussex

To Eastbourne to visit the Girl Guides. The President's grandmother, Emily Shackleton, was Commissioner there a century ago and presented them with the Shackleton Shield which has recently been rescued from the archives. The President presented the shield to the winning team at a ceremony in the Bushy Wood Guide Camp which had been converted into the Antarctic for the occasion. There was even a casualty centre complete with a 'casualty' sporting a 'broken leg'. When the President looked at her, the casualty said 'Ouch!', rather sadly ... (see page 6)

China – Hong Kong – South Korea – Singapore – Canada – Norway – Sussex – London: all in all, a very varied and interesting nine months.



*Antarctic Endurance* (photo credit: Peder Otto Dybvik)

## Kilkea not Kilkee



*Kilkea House, Co Kildare*

Sir Ernest Shackleton was born on 15 February 1874 in Kilkea House, County Kildare, Ireland. The nearby village of Kilkea is located between the towns of Athy and Castledermot and is 40 miles south of Dublin. There is another town in Ireland called Kilkee (note the different spelling). Kilkee is a seaside resort in County Clare well known for its beautiful scenery; but it was most definitely not the birthplace of the great Antarctic explorer.

It came as a surprise therefore when an Irish JCS member on a cruise ship in the Indian Ocean on 15 February 2019 read a copy of the daily news-sheet Britain Today pushed under his cabin door. The column headed 'Today in History' declared that 'In 1874 the Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton was born in Kilkee, County Clare'. Shortly afterwards the same JCS member was sent a photograph of a portrait of Shackleton currently on display in no less than the National Portrait Gallery in London. The wording below the portrait (happily since corrected) read 'Polar Explorer born at Kilkee, Ireland'.

Further research on the internet then revealed numerous other examples of the same error naming Kilkee rather than Kilkea as the birthplace. The misinformed publications included the Albion Chronicles, the Solar Navigator, London Remembers, My Hero to the Masonic Trowel and even the Journal of the National Library of Australia.

This being an Irish item, there is inevitably a further twist to the story: there in Kilkee, County Clare, stands (incredibly) a row of four cottages named Shackleton Terrace with the end cottage proudly displaying the name Shackleton Lodge. Sometime between 1910 and 1920 a local builder named Thomas Marrinan built the four cottages – one each for his four daughters Kate, Ellen, Nora and Mary. The reason for the Shackleton name is not clear and one theory from the Marrinan family is that



*Portrait of Shackleton with description*

### **SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON 1874–1922**

By Reginald Grenville Eves, 1876–1941

Polar explorer. Born at Kilkea, Ireland, Shackleton was one of the leading figures associated with Antarctic exploration. He was a junior officer on the National Antarctic Expedition under Captain Scott in 1901. His own expedition in his ship succeeded in reaching the South Magnetic Pole and scaling Mount Erebus. In 1914 he commanded the Trans-Antarctic Expedition in *Endurance*. When the ship was crushed by ice, using sledges and boats he guided its company 200 miles to safety. He and five companions then sailed a further 800 miles in a small boat to South Georgia to find rescue.

Oil on canvas, 1921

Given by a Memorial Committee, 1933

NPG 2608



Shackleton Terrace



Shackleton Lodge

Shackleton may have holidayed there. This is highly unlikely! A more credible explanation would have been the fame attached to Sir Ernest Shackleton following his Nimrod Expedition of 1907–1909 or his Endurance Expedition of 1914–1916. The fact of Sir Ernest’s birthplace having been at the similar sounding Kilkea may have tempted the builder mischievously to ‘borrow’ the name for his row of cottages.

What about another twist? There was once an Irish film actor named JW Johnston who was born near Kilkea, County Clare in 1876. He was known as ‘the dark Irish actor’ and he died in Hollywood in 1946. His obituary in

the Los Angeles Times gave his birthplace as Kilkea, Ireland. Revenge at last?

All in all the cooperation of JCS members worldwide would be greatly appreciated in finally correcting the record. Any sightings of a birthplace reference for Sir Ernest Shackleton to anywhere other than Kilkea, County Kildare should be followed up with a quiet word in the ear of the misinformed author or editor. Many thanks from the JCS enthusiasts of Ireland.

*Neale Webb*



A symposium was held in Dublin on 7–9 June 2019 sponsored by The Antarctic Circle and co-ordinated by long-time JCS member Robert Stephenson of Jaffrey, New Hampshire. The weekend included a visit to Shackleton’s birthplace at Kilkea, Co Kildare and to the house at 35 Marlborough Road, Dublin where Shackleton lived as a boy. This photograph shows the attendance at the Saturday evening banquet and includes attendees from all around the world.

### 19th Shackleton Autumn School 25–28 October 2019

Lecturers, Drama, Film, Excursion, Exhibits, Polar Exhibition 'Scott'

The annual Shackleton Autumn School Festival is a four-day event commemorating Sir Ernest in the county of his birth. The Autumn School provides the only forum for the discussion of Polar exploration/research in Ireland.

[www.shackletonmuseum.com](http://www.shackletonmuseum.com)

## They came, they tried, they failed this time ...

On 21 November 1915 the semi-crushed hull of the *Endurance* finally slipped under the ice in what Shackleton called 'the worst corner of the worst sea on Earth' leaving 28 men alone on the ice with no hope of rescue. Wrapped in its own straggling rigging it took about half an hour to descend the 3000m where it came to rest listing on one side, its keel buried in the ocean floor. By this time some pieces had fallen off and other objects had floated to the ice floe above, including food tins and the ship's football which was later found by the crew. During the slow descent (some?) tins, bottles and containers would have been crushed flat at different depths, except undoubtedly Shackleton's own full bottle of whisky under his bunk! After impact the rigging collapsed round the wreck and all motion ceased in under a minute.

In pitch black, at enormous pressure, with little current, there it has remained for 104 years. Its resting place is the seabed below permanent ice – over two miles down and the most unexplored part of the planet. Although metal could have been corroded by salt and acids, the timber and many parts of the wreck should be remarkably well preserved. No woodworm can survive and other forms of deep-sea life would not know what wood was, let alone be able to munch it.

What about the sledging equipment for the intended land crossing, the rations, the tins of pemmican, the crate of lime juice capsules, treated to preserve the vitamin C, and developed specially for Shackleton? What about the specimens of various sorts sealed in alcohol-filled jars left in the marine biologist's laboratory waiting to shed light on outstanding mysteries? What about Macklin's illustrated diary which he accidentally left in a waterproof tin on the shelf above his bunk?

What about several dozen of Hurley's glass negatives in sealed tins which never made it out of the ship and thus

were not smashed with the rest? What about the ship's fine wine reserved for special days? What about the officers' compasses? Above all, what about the encrusted ship's bell engraved in bold letters 'S Y Endurance'? If only one artefact can be brought up from the dark deep seabed it will be this!

On 10 February 2019 the Weddell Sea Expedition ship, *S. A. Agulhas II*, its scientific work completed, positioned itself directly over the wreck in a lucky clearing in the sea ice. Its autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) was lowered and sent off on a pre-programmed 30-hour survey of the ocean floor to search for the wreck. This orange tube, with 100-hour battery life, able to dive to 6000m, was tested to its limits. It went deep under the ice but mysteriously failed to return, despite constant and hopeful vigil. Unless it was accidentally eaten by a wandering Orca it is likely to have had ballast problems and sunk, together with the secrets of what it may or may not have found.

So the world's most iconic wreck will remain undisturbed until such time as money, enterprise and technology rise to the challenge and mount another search. In addition any future hunters and their backers may need to embrace failure – again and again; then, by learning from Shackleton's most valuable lesson, turn failure – step by step – into eventual triumph.

Sir E's direct descendants including our President, descendants of the other brave explorers, as well as we *aficionados*, await eagerly for the news. This period of Antarctic Centenary celebrations is due to end in 2022. How wonderful if, to mark the occasion, a simple newsflash spread around the world: '*Endurance Found*'.

David McLean

## Extreme Design: Learning by Doing in Antarctica

At the foot of Collins Glacier on King George Island sits a lightweight research tent. It's been there since February 2019, and it will remain in position (it is hoped!) until January 2020, undergoing the ultimate endurance test: twelve freezing months in Antarctica with winds of up to 200km/h.

This ground-breaking 'tent' is part of a project aimed at ultimately making everyday buildings more resilient in the face of evermore extreme climate trends and events.

The tent, currently nestling beside the frozen glacier, was based on a Mongolian yurt, but is now made of very different materials. The external skin is a weatherproof layer of ultra-strong Dyneema, made from reused racing yacht sails, donated by North Sails, the world leader in sail-making. Beneath that lies a layer of ORV8, composed of a four-layer material rather like a space blanket. This was made by bedding specialists Orvec and attached above the timber yurt structure. Within this structure was suspended an inner lining of ORV8, like an igloo within a yurt. This project was undertaken with two colleagues, Manuel Guedes and Joao Pinelo, under the auspices of Portuguese Propolar.org.

Despite our team's experience in climatic design, we found that in Antarctica we were working beyond not just the limits of our knowledge, but also the limits of our imagination. Pre-conceptions changed considerably during February 2019; it is impossible to understand the real power of wind and cold before experiencing it. Traditional simulation models were of some use as powerful tools to help optimise the tent form and structure, but the live project provided magical insights including the importance of orientation, the radiant environment around the tent and the internal thermal landscapes within it. These are all crucial where every degree counts...

To find out more about this extraordinary tent you can follow the field blog on [www.extremelodge.org](http://www.extremelodge.org) or look at the papers that are already published and can be found at [www.comfortattheextremes.com](http://www.comfortattheextremes.com)

Sue Roaf  
[s.roaf@hw.ac.uk](mailto:s.roaf@hw.ac.uk)



## A thought from a JCS Committee member!

20 January 2019 was designated 'Penguin Awareness Day' which reminded me yet again that penguins are part of the context of Sir Ernest and all those involved in his great expeditions. This thought led me to a quote from Henry Beston:

*'We patronize the animals for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they are more finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other Nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time.'*

Roger Slade

## The inspiration of poetry

It is a well-known fact that Shackleton used poetry in his diaries (and other writings) to express his feelings, his hopes and his ambitions. He wrote his own poetry but also drew on other poets for inspiration. On 5 December 1914, as *Endurance* sailed from South Georgia on that last voyage, he wrote in his diary the first verse of a poem by St John Lucas called *The Ship of Fools*:

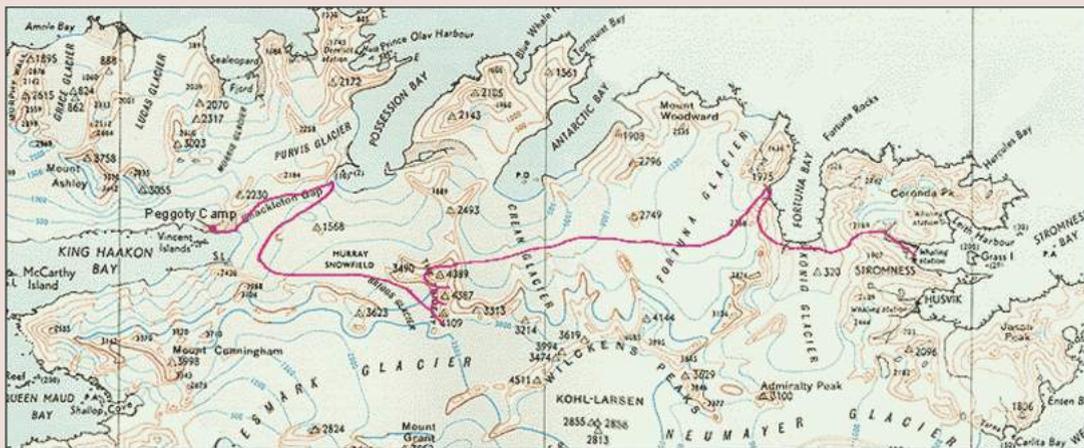
*We were the fools who could not rest  
In the dull earth we left behind  
But burned with passion for the South  
And drank strange frenzy from the wind.  
The world where wise men sit at ease,  
Fades from my unregretful eyes  
And blind across uncharted seas  
We stagger on our enterprise.*

But he also inspired other poets, notably, it is believed, TS Eliot.

On the last leg of that epic journey of rescue all three men (Shackleton, Worsley and Crean) felt there was an extra presence. 'I know that during that long and racking march of thirty-six hours over the unnamed mountains and glaciers of South Georgia it seemed to me often that we were four, not three.'

TS Eliot admitted to being 'stimulated' by tales of Antarctic expeditions. In 1922, the year Shackleton died, he published *The Waste Land*. Did Shackleton's story inspire this verse?

*Who is the third who walks always beside you?  
When I count, there are only you and I together  
But when I look ahead up the white road  
There is always another one walking beside you  
Gliding wrapt in a brown mantle, hooded  
I do not know whether a man or a woman  
— But who is that on the other side of you?*



South Georgia showing Shackleton's route across the then un-mapped interior

## In Shackleton's footsteps back in the 1960s

One of the earliest Shackleton-inspired expeditions (1964/65) was led by the late Malcolm Burley whose detailed plan submitted to the Ministry of Defence had three main aims: to discover the 'route', and achieve the first crossing, that Shackleton, Worsley and Crean had taken from King Haakon Bay to Stromness; to make the first ascent of Mt Paget and as many other unclimbed peaks in that part of the Allardyce Range as time permitted; and to make a large scale map of the area north of Royal Bay.

The expedition was a huge success. Mt Paget was climbed by a team of three with each service represented, and Mt Sugartop, the island's third highest at 7,623 ft, soon after. A large problem had been evident for some time – how to cross the Allardyce Range and return to Grytviken, and so move on to Royal Bay and the third phase. During the descent from Mt Fagerli a possible route was revealed; it was explored by a small team to 'prove' the route, and was successful. The 4,000 ft descent by the whole expedition, sledges and stores, from the high point along the range and down onto the Lyell Glacier and on to Grytviken took nine days and was the major achievement of the whole expedition.

The expedition did not carry radios, perhaps the last such expedition to be allowed this concession. Malcolm had convinced the authorities that no one could come to their aid should it be needed, and any eventuality had to be solved by the team itself – just as in Shackleton's own case. However they were rather overdue, and there was some relief at their eventual, bearded and unwashed, appearance at Grytviken!

*Malcolm Burley*



## Inspiration in many forms

Inspiration is not just about expeditions. Children who learn the story are inspired in all sorts of ways.



Dr Cathy Michel was inspired by seeing Hurley's photographs to create two quilts. The pictures were assembled into two large quilts with a positive and negative print of Endurance as 'Spectre ship' as centre pieces. Both quilts were hung as part of an exhibition at the Royal College of Pathologists over the summer of 2010 and at the Festival of Quilts at the NEC in Birmingham in mid August 2011.





## What the Society does

### The James Caird Society was founded by Harding McGregor Dunnett in 1994

It is a registered charity dedicated to honouring the remarkable feats of discovery in the Antarctic and to commending the qualities of leadership associated with Sir Ernest Shackleton KCVO. These qualities proved invaluable during the ill-fated but glorious Endurance Expedition. The subsequent rescue of the entire team, and in particular the vital role played by the *James Caird* and her crew, is a feat unique in the history of exploration.

The boat itself now lives at Dulwich College, Shackleton's former school, and is on display in the iconic James Caird Hall. The Society meets twice a year at Dulwich for a reception, followed by a dinner and talk, typically on a related Polar or exploration topic. These well-attended events are convivial and informative, with excellent food!

The Society also offers support to projects and expeditions which emulate the ethos of the Endurance Expedition – and the spirit of endurance.

### Membership application form

I wish to become a member of the James Caird Society paying a subscription of (*indicate as applicable*):

- £55 for three years, or
  - £100 for six years, or
  - £20 annually (*Payable only by bankers' order*)
- Subscription year begins 1 July*

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

Profession .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Shackleton connection (if any) .....

.....

Please photocopy this form or download it from our website. Single year applications (for UK residents only) must also include a completed Bankers' Order Form which can also be downloaded from our website. Cheques should be made payable to The James Caird Society and should be sent, with the relevant form, to: Andy Kinniburgh, 43 Prideaux Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 2NB. Tel: 07831 747479 and email [akinniburgh@f2s.com](mailto:akinniburgh@f2s.com)

UK taxpayers are urged to take advantage of Gift Aid which allows the Society tax relief on subscription. A Gift Aid Declaration Form is available on the website.

## Keep in touch ...

The Society communicates with members by email in preference to post (snail mail) where possible. Overseas members receive the newsletter and invitations only by email. Please keep us updated with your email address to our membership secretary, Tony Parker, at [tonyparker1947@gmail.com](mailto:tonyparker1947@gmail.com).

If your latest subscription is due or not yet paid please contact the membership secretary and send payment so that we can keep your records up-to-date.



*The Extreme Design team take extreme action! (see page 13)*

### The James Caird Society 2019

President: The Hon Alexandra Shackleton  
 Chairman: Rear Admiral Nick Lambert  
 Vice Chairman: John Bardell  
 Hon Secretary: Dr Andy Kinniburgh  
 Hon Treasurer: Tony Parker  
 Committee: Steven Scott-Fawcett, David McLean,  
 Roger Slade, Nick Smith, John Page

The James Caird Society, Dulwich College, London SE21 7LD  
 Registered Charity No. 1044864  
 Telephone: 01580 714944  
 Website: [www.jamescairdsociety.com](http://www.jamescairdsociety.com)  
 Email: [jamescairdsociety@live.co.uk](mailto:jamescairdsociety@live.co.uk)

Editor: Dorothy Wright, [dorothyanders@hotmail.com](mailto:dorothyanders@hotmail.com)  
 Design and typesetting by Strathmore Publishing Services, London EC1 and Elspeth McPherson.  
 Printed by iPrint UK Ltd, Whetstone, Leicester