



The James Caird Society Newsletter

Issue 16 · October 2010

Scotch on the rocks?

In the past few months, there has been much in the press about the discovery of Shackleton's whisky.

The crates were initially recovered, frozen solid, in February of this year, having been spotted originally in 2006, buried beneath Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds. One crate from the store was carefully extracted and taken to the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, New Zealand, under the watchful eye of Nigel Watson, executive director of the NZ Antarctic Heritage Trust.

There then followed a period described as 'the great whisky crate thaw' in carefully monitored conditions. Finally, on Thursday 12 August 2010, 102 years, 7 months and 12 days after *Nimrod* left Lyttelton Harbour with the crate on board, it was opened again. But not perhaps for the first time!

Ten bottles of Mackinlay's whisky were discovered intact within their straw packaging and one was found broken; the twelfth straw package, however, was empty. The explanation for this is a mystery and likely to remain so. The other mystery is what the whisky itself tastes like. The recipe for that particular blend has been lost over the years but it is likely to have been quite heavy and peaty, as was the fashion of the time.

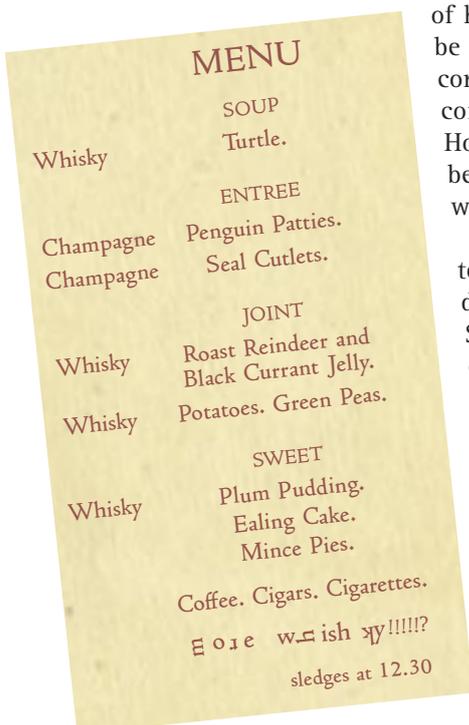
Whyte & Mackay now owns Mackinlay's and their Master Blender, Richard Paterson, is eager to analyse a sample. This would be a unique opportunity to study a whisky which has been on ice for over 100 years, so it needs to be handled with the utmost care to ensure its properties are not lost. The terms of the Antarctic Treaty, which demand the protection of items

of historic value, must also be respected, as must the concerns of the professional conservators involved. However the dream is that before long a replica whisky could be produced.

In contrast with the teetotal regime followed during the greater part of Shackleton's expeditions, celebrating birthdays and other festivals was vital for morale. A menu from the team's Midwinter Celebration at Cape Royds in June 1908 shows how these occasions could become a 'wild spree'.



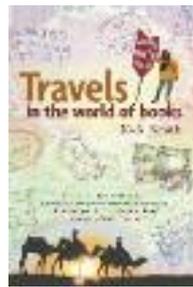
If Richard Paterson's team are given the go-ahead, we may one day know just how good the whisky at this Polar festival tasted. As for the Penguin Patties ...



James Caird Society News

The James Caird Society Newsletter

After editing this Newsletter for two years and, in partnership with David McLean, creating its current vibrant format, Nick Smith is now handing over the reins. He will still be involved with the Society and his wonderful pictures will continue to grace the pages of the Newsletter. The Committee would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication in the past, and to wish him the very best of luck with his recently published book: *Travels in the World of Books*. An introduction to the new editor appears on Page 15.



Antarctic Art

Last year a group of artists discovered a stunning subject: the deep south. On an expedition cruise to South Georgia, the Antarctic and the Falkland Islands, they realised they had enough material – natural, historical and industrial – to mount a spectacular exhibition. *Deep South*, featuring the work of seven artists, will start in The Old Library at Dulwich College on 25 October, moving to The Stables Gallery in Twickenham in May 2011, to Discovery Point in Dundee in April 2012, and from there to other venues around the country.



Shackleton's Voyage – on CD

The epic tale of the Endurance voyage is now available in words and music. Frank Bossert is a musician from Hamburg who has put together a fascinating and moving interpretation of the famous story. The CD combines narrative with instrumental pieces and haunting songs. Progressive rock unites with a symphonic influence and an underlying resonance of Celtic to create an atmospheric whole which captures the emotions from optimism through despair and on to relief. More details on www.eureka-music.de



Journal Number Five

Issue Number Five of the James Caird Society Journal is now available. Some 80 fully illustrated pages packed with interesting and informative essays, reviews, observations and illustrations, the Journal makes a splendid and colourful read.



To obtain a copy, please contact the Editor, Stephen Scott-Fawcett, on 01263 515808 or email him at stevescottfawcett@googlemail.com

A Summer Boat Trip 2011

An evening dinner cruise down the Thames is being planned for July 2011. It is likely to be on a Monday or Tuesday. More details will follow nearer the time but we would like to gauge interest in advance. Please contact David McLean to add your name and email address to his list. (dhmcl7@gmail.com or 07738 816469)

Endurance Exhibition 2010–11

This fascinating exhibition has been running since July at the Merseyside Maritime Museum in Liverpool. It is

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Next James Caird Society Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the James Caird Society will be held at Dulwich College on:
Friday 12 November 2010, starting at 5.30pm

Following the meeting Frank Swinton will talk on *Life at 75° South*, an account of his adventures as a doctor with the British Antarctic Survey.

Dinner will be served in the Great Hall after the lecture.

'In Shackleton's Footsteps: A return to the Heart of the Antarctic'

At our November dinner it seemed fitting that we were able to welcome Dr Joe Spence, the new Master of Dulwich College, and his wife Angela to a very special lecture on the occasion of their first James Caird Evening.

For on that evening of 6 November 2009 we were given a rare treat: Henry Worsley and Will Gow came to tell us about their recent historical expedition to the South Pole. The Shackleton Centenary Expedition was the brainchild of Sir Ernest's family and had been put together by several of his descendants as an attempt to finish his ill-fated journey to reach the South Pole.

It had been Henry's lifelong dream to follow in the steps of Shackleton, and it was abundantly clear when one heard him speak how very personal, and indeed emotional, it was for him to attain his goal and reach that seemingly insurmountable summit. He told how Shackleton's compass was such an inspiration to him, especially on the final stages of the expedition.

Will told us how much harder the journey had been than they expected. Despite a comprehensive programme of vigorous training beforehand to help them acclimatise to wind and weather, nothing could compare with the real thing; nothing could prepare them for the 'ferocious wind and vicious wind chill'.

They took it in turns to tell us of their journey, which became more and more difficult as they neared the Pole. The lecture was 'peppered' with excellent photographs of Henry, Will and third team member, Henry Adams, skiing across the ice or tucked into their tiny tents; the team managed to achieve their ambition and successfully completed the final 90 miles to the South Pole – at not inconsiderable wear and tear to themselves. The pictures of them reaching the summit with the Union Jack, the American and French flags fluttering above their triumphant, bearded faces made a grand finale to an heroic tale!

Wild and Wonderful: The May Meeting



Sue Flood is a renowned wildlife photographer who travels all over the world to capture the right shot. We were delighted to welcome her to our May meeting and see for ourselves why she has acquired such an excellent reputation. Before taking up photography and film-making full time, Sue worked at the BBC where she was associate producer for *The Blue Planet* series and *Planet Earth*. She also worked on *A Boy Among Polar Bears*, *Polar Bears on Thin Ice* and *Killer Whale Special*.

Her photographs have won several awards and, thanks to Charles Swithinbank's wonderful giant screen, we were able to see exactly why! This new screen projected Sue's pictures at their very best; the colours were electric, showing off the penguins, seals and underwater scenes in an exceptionally beautiful and dramatic way. Her shots of the wild life, and of the Polar and marine environments – both topside and underwater – were breathtaking.

Sue's enthusiasm for her subject was clear for all to see; here was someone who was passionate about the work she had chosen to do. Sue herself says, 'I have a dream job for someone who loves wildlife, conservation, diving, travel and photography!'

Sadly her time was limited; I know her audience would have happily enjoyed looking at her photographs for a great deal longer!

Pippa Hare, September 2010

Christie's of London: Exploration and Travel Sale

The interest in all aspects of travel and exploration continues unabated. The most recent Christie's auction on this theme was on Wednesday 22 September 2010 and took a total of £1,650,975 from 178 lots.

Memorabilia from Antarctic explorations are as popular as ever. The item that sold for the highest figure (£169,250) was from the British Antarctic Expedition, 1910–13. This was Herbert George Ponting's three master albums of contact prints in oblong 2° brown cloth.

The item which attracted the third highest sale price (£73,250) was Captain Scott's Silk Union Jack taken on the British National Antarctic Expedition, 1901–03, and on the British Antarctic Expedition, 1910–13.



Some other items of interest included:

- *Sledging Camp in a Blizzard* and *New Coastline West of Cape North*, both by George Edward Marston (1882–1940) which sold for £9,375 and £3,500 respectively
- Lady Shackleton's scrapbook which included watercolours by Marston (£6,250)
- Volume 1 of *The South Polar Times*. (April to August 1902). Half-title. Title in red and black. Plates and illustrations after Herbert Ponting, Edward Wilson and others (£1,500)
- A decorative address of welcome to Sir Ernest Shackleton by residents of Ilford Essex in which they honour his services to the British Nation, his 'brilliant achievement of penetrating to within 100 miles of the South Pole and planting the British Flag in that unexplored region', with appreciation of his 'steadfastness of purpose, that capacity of surmounting almost impassable barriers, and that utter disregard of personal discomfort which we are proud to think is an attribute of the Englishman'. (£750)

For further information visit www.christies.com

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'A man of action and yet a man of books'

Of ink and ice: travels with the literary Shackleton

Earlier this year travel writer Nick Smith interviewed JCS President Alexandra Shackleton about her grandfather's literary career:

On Scott's Discovery Expedition (1901–03) Shackleton edited *The South Polar Times* whilst his first expedition as leader (Nimrod 1907–09) was to produce two books of note: *Aurora Australis*, an anthology of writing and illustrations by the expedition members, which he edited, and the two-volume *The Heart of the Antarctic*, which he wrote. His third expedition (Endurance) gave rise to his second book *South*. He also wrote many letters, articles and poetry and of course he kept a diary, often in extraordinarily harsh conditions and often written in pencil, because pencil, surprisingly, lasts so much better than ink.

The South Polar Times was in three volumes and Shackleton edited two. It describes the doings of the expedition and was illustrated brilliantly by the assistant physician, Edward Wilson. There are also cartoons of each member of the expedition. Editing *The South Polar Times* was very much a job after Shackleton's heart: he was interested in the English language and enjoyed collecting articles and trying to reflect life as it was. It was an extraordinarily accomplished production considering it wasn't the trade of any of the men concerned. There is an edition at the National Maritime Museum that originally belonged to Rudyard Kipling and has his nameplate in it.

Aurora Australis was the first book to be printed, bound and published in Antarctica. The printers were Frank Wild and Ernest Joyce, who had taken a crash-course in how to use the press especially acquired for the expedition.

When Shackleton returned from the Nimrod Expedition he wrote *The Heart of the Antarctic*, a hugely evocative account in the style of the books of that era. It includes fascinating shopping lists of what they bought for the expedition, including the whisky described on Page 1. The choice of books is also intriguing. There was of course a library on board *Nimrod*: the Bible and Shakespeare were a given, but there was much besides. Shackleton, a deeply poetic man, took a great deal of poetry. From childhood the Shackleton family would learn pages of poetry by heart and would identify quotations over dinner. Ernest loved Robert Browning and *Prospice* was one of his favourites:



'For sudden the worst turns the best to the brave.' He could recite pages and pages of poetry and, when he was on *Discovery* with Hugh Robert Mill (his first biographer and a lifelong friend), Mill was quite disconcerted about how much poetry this young officer knew and wrote in his diary 'such literary absorption savours the impractical.'

Shackleton wrote poetry, using the pseudonym 'Nemo', but his prose is superior. In fact *The Heart of the Antarctic* was so well written that it was used in schools in Holland for years, not because it was a description of a wonderful adventure, but because the English was so good.

Coming from a family with a huge interest in literature, writing for Shackleton came naturally. His style often reflected the conditions he and his men were facing. Jan Piggott in his excellent article 'Shackleton as reader, writer and editor' mentions that, whilst Shackleton was capable of beautiful lyrical descriptions, when his men were under pressure his writing style becomes tighter and more muscular. But it remains incredibly evocative.

One such description is of *Nimrod* setting off south. To save coal, they were towed to the Antarctic Circle by a little tug called *Koonya*, possibly the longest tow ever recorded. It was an rough voyage and there were times when *Nimrod* could hardly see *Koonya*. Shackleton described his ship as like 'a reluctant schoolboy being dragged off to school', a wonderful image.

After *Nimrod* Shackleton tried to settle down to various business ventures, but he didn't manage it and in 1911 started preparing for what was regarded as the last great polar adventure – to cross the Antarctic from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea via the South Pole: the Endurance Expedition.

Of course, as everyone now knows, *Endurance* got stuck in the ice, was crushed and went down. But Shackleton was always pragmatic. After grieving for the loss of his ship, he wrote in his diary: 'A man must set himself to a new mark, directly the old one goes.' And his new mark was to bring every member of the expedition home alive.



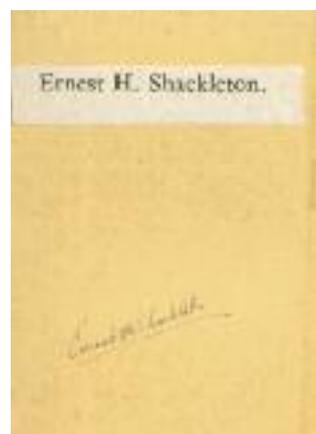
The story of how he did that has inspired many works of literature, not least of which is Shackleton's second book, *South*, written by his amanuensis, Edward Saunders. Shackleton wanted to put Saunders' name on the cover, but Saunders refused. It was very painful for Shackleton to relive the story, especially of the ship sinking, but the story had to be told. It was published in 1919 and was more of a rush-job than *The Heart of the Antarctic*. Because of the war and various restrictions there was no good paper available. You can always tell the early editions because of this.

Shackleton started his fourth expedition (Quest) in 1921. He got as far as South Georgia and the last diary entry confirms his place in history not just as a great explorer, but also as a great writer: 'in the glimmering twilight a lone star hovers gem-like over the bay.'

The complete version of this interview is available as a chapter in Nick Smith's new book *Travels in the World of Books*, available on Amazon.

Shackleton's reading

A copy of *The Gentle Shakespeare* by John Pym Yeatman, bought by Sir Ernest Shackleton in 1921, was donated to the Dulwich College Archive by Miss Audrey Twine in March 2010. It had been bought by Dr Eric Sams who offered it during his lifetime to both the Scott Polar Research Institute and the National Maritime Museum. When neither wanted it, he left it to his neighbour Miss Twine. The College have long been interested in the character of Ernest Shackleton and to have a book he owned helps enormously to expand on our picture of him and his literary taste.



The ownership label and signature on the inside front cover of *The Gentle Shakespeare*

A poem by Sir Ernest



*Yes boys, we will be home again,
But our hearts will still be faithful to this Southern land of ours,
Though we wander in English meadows 'mid the scent of English flowers,
When the soft southerly breeze shakes the blossom away from the thorn,
And flings from the wild rose cup, the shining gift of the morn;
And when the scarlet poppies peep through the golden wheat,
As the stronger winds of Autumn march in with heavier feet;
And when the fields are snow clad, trees hard in a frosty rime,
Our thoughts still wander Southward, we shall think of the grey old time;
Again in dreams go back to our fight with the icy floe ...
We shall dream of the ever increasing gales, the birds in their Northward flight;
The magic of twilight colours, the gloom of the long, long night ...
And when, in the fading firelight, we turn these pages of o'er,
We shall think of the times we wrote therein by that far off Southern shore.
With regret we shall close the story, yet ever in thought go back ...
Though the grip of the frost may be cruel, and relentless in its icy hold,
Yet it knit our hearts together in that darkness stern and cold.*

Malcolm Burley (September 1927–August 2010)

For me Malcolm will always be the leader of the successful 1964/65 Combined Services Expedition. Of course he had a full life before and after this, but this memoir will concentrate on his links to South Georgia.

Malcolm joined the navy after World War Two and in 1960 was appointed to HMS *Protector* where he discovered the lure of the southern ocean. His first attempt on Mt Paget (9,625 ft), was so nearly successful, it became the driving force behind his submission to take a ten-man Services Expedition back to the island four years later.

Malcolm's detailed plan, which won through against other submissions, had three main aims: to discover the route, and achieve the first crossing (as taken by Shackleton, Worsley and Crean) 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 produce a large scale map of the area north of Royal Bay.

Malcolm selected an excellent team from some 400 applicants, an essential skill in a good leader. Typically we were 50:50 officers and NCOs, with the three Services equally represented. He ensured that team members, all climbers of varied experience, acquired the skills necessary for their roles. This included learning about surveying so that they could support the surveyors in their work. His diplomatic skill was also evident: when we joined HMS *Protector* in Montevideo he ensured that we all played our part and fitted seamlessly into ship's life both aboard and ashore. (This was particularly important on the ten-week return voyage up the west coast of South America; working up our results, we would get more than our share of attention from local communities and the press.)

What of Malcolm, the man? He exuded a quiet confidence right from first acquaintance, and had a jolly, warm and generous personality that immediately made friends wherever we were. He had a lively sense of fun, was highly sociable and loved parties. We had a few – before departure, during the expedition (my own birthday was celebrated in a lively but chilly way on the Neumayer Glacier), on the return journey home, and at many reunions since. In the field he would let us discuss possible actions amongst ourselves when there was time, for we shared a wealth of experience, but then made his decision ('order' is not the right word) and off we would go. His expression, 'Order, counterorder, disorder!', said with the Burley chuckle, was one we came to know well.

His religion meant a lot. On Sundays we always held a short gathering where one of us would choose a couple of readings from Malcolm's prayer books. Christmas was celebrated on the Kjerulf Glacier. A large cave was dug and roofed over with the two sledges so that we could all be together for our Christmas lunch, seated on packing cases. Typically, every detail had been planned in advance: decorations, balloons, cards, a traditional menu – and drink.

The expedition was a huge success. A team of three, one from each Service, climbed Mt Paget, followed by Mt Sugartop, the island's third highest at 7,623 ft, soon after. The remaining members of the expedition made attempts on Mt Fagerli (6,167 ft) and Paulsen Peak (6,158 ft), but unsafe conditions near the summits meant neither was reached.

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, we felt, the major achievement of the expedition.

We 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 our aid, and any eventuality must be solved by the team itself – as in Shackleton's own case. But we were rather overdue, and there was some relief at our bearded and unwashed appearance at Grytviken.

The last phase, the survey of the north Royal Bay area was also completed. A previously unnamed summit in this area was later named Mt Burley (2,933 ft).

The successful outcome of this expedition was thanks to Malcolm: his initial selection of the team, his detailed attention to preparation, his excellent administration, and his superb leadership. I consider him one of the great expedition leaders of his day, and he thoroughly deserved the MBE subsequently awarded. For many of us he changed our lives, in all kinds of positive ways.

About five years later he returned south to lead another Combined Services Expedition to Elephant and Clarence Islands, again highly successful.

He retired from the navy in 1973, and became Bursar of Stowe School, a post which suited his skills and personality like a glove. He and his wife, Fiona, had three daughters, all now married and parents in turn. Malcolm and Fiona retired to Peasenhall in Suffolk and played a full part in the village life there.

Our ten-man team, now down to eight, remain in close touch. Five of us were at Malcolm's funeral, as well as a further four from the Elephant Island team, to join a large number of other friends.

*Patrick Fagan
Former Chairman, James Caird Society*



Following in famous footsteps

Jeremy Musson, for *Country Life*, wondered what it was like living with illustrious forebears. To find out, he spoke to descendants of the Earl of Carnarvon, Sir Joseph Bazalgette, Charles Darwin and our own Sir Ernest Shackleton. With the kind permission of Jeremy, and of *Country Life*, here is some of the interview with Alexandra Shackleton:

‘He was not a saint, but I do believe he was a very great man,’ says the Hon Alexandra Shackleton, who’s become a champion of her grandfather rather by chance. ‘I’m certainly not the keeper of the flame, because the flame does not need to be kept. His reputation seems to grow all the time for one reason – his leadership.’

Her first visit to the Antarctic was in HMS *Endurance* in 1991, which was ‘deeply inspiring’. Coincidentally, interest seemed to grow worldwide and she was asked to speak at events.

‘People ask me to do things, and if I think they’ll be interesting, I do them. I’ve named three ships – more would be vulgar. I’m a patron of the Shackleton Epic Expedition, which goes forth next year. Tim Jarvis plans to re-create the 800-mile voyage of the tiny 23ft *James Caird* across the stormiest seas in the world to South Georgia and climb its unmapped mountains, which Shackleton did in 1916 to bring rescue to the rest of his men marooned on Elephant Island.’

Her father Edward (later Lord Shackleton) was Shackleton’s younger son and was only 10 when his explorer father died aged 47, in 1922. He hardly knew him because he was ‘away exploring for years at a time. I didn’t grow up with lots of stories about my grandfather, although one of the cooks from his primus stove was used at home to feed the chickens. There was also one of the *Endurance* Expedition photographs, showing the sledge dogs sitting on the ice after the ship was wrecked. I remember asking what happened to them and noticed that the grown-ups never gave a direct answer. I later learnt the dogs were all shot – you couldn’t take them in open boats and they were essential food, too.’

Shackleton’s experience in sailing ships enabled him to join Scott’s *Discovery* 1904 Expedition; he had entered the merchant navy at 16. On his first expedition as leader, on *Nimrod*, he and his companions got within 97 miles of the South Pole – they would have been the first, but tragedy might have followed. He took the epic decision to turn back. He later said to his wife: ‘I thought you would rather have a live donkey than a dead lion.’

Miss Shackleton adds: ‘He was a natural leader, who took great trouble to know his men well, regardless of rank. He could do any job on an expedition, however menial, and often did. When asked for the qualities needed for a polar leader, he put optimism first, regarding it as true moral courage. I wish I had known him.’

Some Presidential outings of 2010

An interesting few months ...

19 January: A live broadcast to army medics (who are taught Shackleton) at the Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, US. The President does not own a video conferencing suite, as was requested, so did the talk over her home phone. It was a new experience to speak into a void but least there was no satellite echo. Jokes were greeted with a far away ripple of respectful laughter, and questions were militarily formal: lots of ‘ma’ams’. It went well.

31 January: To St Leonard’s School and Sixth Form College, St Andrews, Fife. Shackleton opened their science laboratories, Scotland’s first such purpose-built buildings, on 1 February 1910. The beautiful buildings of this impressive school, now co-ed, have strong associations with Mary Queen of Scots. The President viewed a fine Shackleton exhibition, met five-year-olds dressed as penguins, had a demanding Q and A session, saw the Royal & Ancient Golf Club and made a speech. She was made very welcome: come the bi-centenary, the Shackleton family will expect another invitation ...

18 February: Discussions with the Director of the NZ Antarctic Heritage Trust about the whisky found under the floor of Shackleton’s *Nimrod* Expedition hut (see Page 1). TalkBack Thames plan a film on the story with the President as consultant.

20 March: A joint meeting in Cambridge with the Friends of Scott Polar Research Institute and the South Georgia Association. Heard a lecture on the South Sandwich Islands.

26 April: To Selborne to visit Gilbert White’s House and the Oates Museum, of which the President is now a Patron. Fascinating both for naturalists and those interested in Polar history.

2 May: Annual Travel Book Fair at the Royal Geographical Society.

20 May: Visited Hordle Walhampton Prep School in the New Forest where the story of Shackleton is taught. The children put on an impressive exhibition and asked some searching questions. One ten-year-old supplied the President with an answer that had slipped her mind. Parents were present but not permitted to speak.

26 July: To the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge for an interview with RAI TV (see Page 13). The huge film crew included a make-up artist, but no interpreter; he had gone to see his granny! The interviewer was the grand old man of Italian TV, Piero Angela, and we managed to understand each other.

28 July: To Ramsgate, with Stephen Scott-Fawcett, to visit East Court, house of Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills, one of Shackleton’s most important sponsors. Visit organised by distinguished Polar historian, Dr Ann Savours Shirley. The house, which has recently been sold, has wonderful sea views and much of the original stained glass and wood panelling.

9 September: To Liverpool and the Merseyside Maritime Museum to speak to members at the *Endurance* Exhibition. This fine exhibition by the American Museum of Natural History has been touring since 1999 and shows many of the wonderful Hurley photographs.

Peeping over the edge of the world

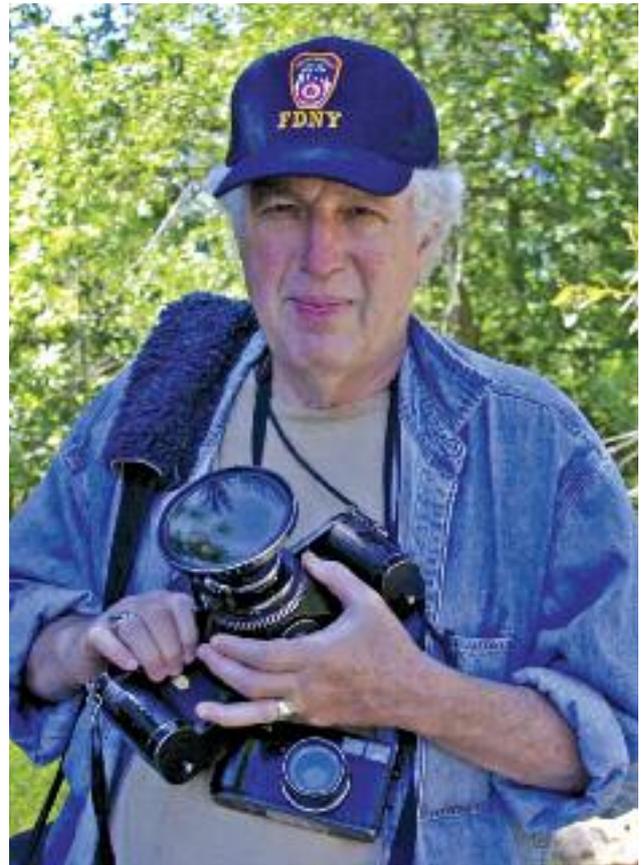
Unlike the people celebrated in this Newsletter, most of us will never be lucky enough to witness the splendour of the Antarctic for ourselves. It is for all of those that this book by Stuart Klipper has been produced.

Stuart Klipper is an American photographer who has travelled to Antarctica six times in 20 years to create an astounding body of work which provides a sweeping look at this majestic and magical continent. The pictures have all been shot in panoramic format, stretching on for ever and taking the viewer right over the edge of the world. Klipper uses a 110-degree Technorama camera to recreate the severe and alien beauty of the Antarctic in a way that has never been achieved before.

These eerily beautiful photographs were captured, for the most part, from the air – in low-flying planes and helicopters. One of the striking aspects about them is how inhuman they are. Klipper has managed to annihilate all traces of himself and his camera from his photos; there is very little wildlife and only one human being, seen in silhouette inside a half-track. The human presence in Antarctica is acknowledged – in footprints, tyre tracks, boats, land vehicles, the cabin of a plane, a flag – but man plays a subsidiary role. The land itself is king.

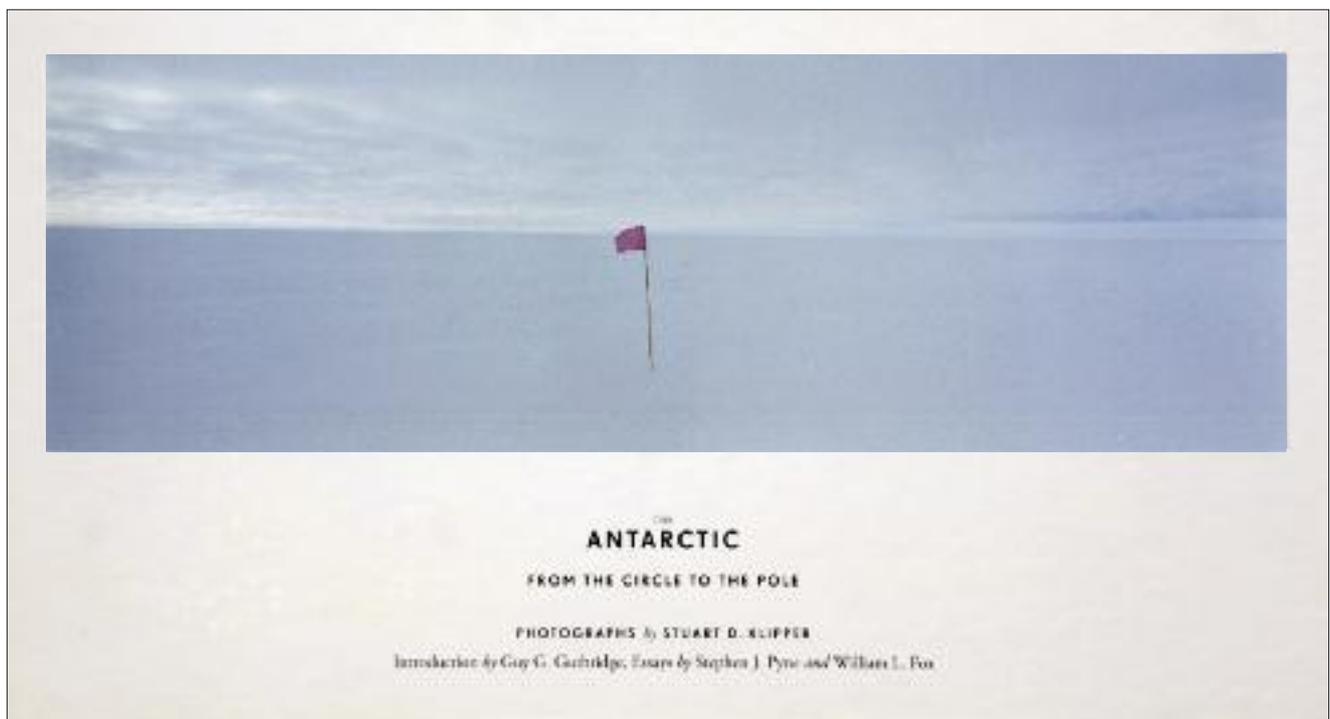
Covering the full range of mountains, oceans and ice, Klipper's work captures major features as well as surprising details: glowing blue icebergs, vistas of endless snow, a variety of ice and ice formations, severe snow-blashed landscapes, the unique bleached light of the region.

There are 110 photographs in all, a truly magnificent display, and these are supplemented by an introduction



Stuart Klipper taken by Nick Linsmayer

by Guy Guthridge, an excellent essay on the transformation of ice into art by Stephen J Pyne and an in-depth biographical essay on Stuart Klipper and his work by William L Fox.





Photographs from The Antarctic From the Circle to the Pole by Stuart Klipper

The volume's substantial size, panoramic shape, and unique vertical-opening format emphasise the grandeur of these austere and lovely photographs; the images themselves have an aspect ratio of 1:3, giving the impression that the scene goes on forever. This format means that the book itself has been described as 'oddy

shaped and difficult to shelve'. It's the kind of book, however, that refuses to be left on the shelf. Instead it is kept out and dipped into, the ultimate 'coffee table book'.

It is said that Antarctica remains largely unknown and infinitely fascinating. This book helps to change the former while proving the latter.

The Shackleton Epic Expedition

The Old Way

When we read of Polar exploration, it inevitably sounds romantic, glamorous even; something we should all have a crack at, given the time. It is all too easy to forget about the harsh reality.



On 23 September, in the comfortable luxury of Bedford Row, in offices kindly lent by law firm Wedlake Bell, expedition leader Tim Jarvis and his team-mate Don McIntyre reminded us what it's really like.

Tim and Don are currently in the midst of a meticulous programme of planning and fundraising for the forthcoming Shackleton Epic Expedition, due now to take place between March and May 2012.

The trip will recreate, for the first time ever, both legs of Shackleton's epic rescue journey: 800 miles across the Southern Ocean in the

James Caird, followed by some 40 miles climbing across the mountains of South Georgia to the whaling station of Stromness.

The team will, as far as possible, use only the sort of equipment and clothing that was available to Shackleton and his men. This is where the truly daunting nature of the project hits home.

Tim has already successfully completed a similar challenge when he followed in Douglas Mawson's footsteps. (*Mawson: Life and Death in Antarctica* by Tim Jarvis) It was this expedition that both inspired and qualified him to 'do the double' in 2012. As we sipped our wine and nibbled our sushi at the fundraising event in Bedford Row, we heard a little of what undertaking an expedition the old way actually meant.

- Pulling all your equipment, rations and shelter on a sledge – in the case of his Mawson Expedition for 47 days
- A starvation ration of a small bar of pemmican (made of dried reindeer meat and lard) plus five boiled sweets, some meat jerky and a tea bag reused morning and night meaning he lost over 50 lbs in weight
- Chafing and frostbite problems associated with wearing old Burberry clothes and leather boots
- The intense cold that saw fillings shrink and fall out – Tim had to perform dentistry on himself to keep his teeth
- When sleeping in authentic reindeer skin bags on the snow (the tent had no floor in accordance with the way it was for Mawson) body heat melted the snow causing one's sleeping bag to become sodden. This then froze solid on the next day's trek when subjected to the extreme cold, becoming wet again with one's body heat at the end of a long hard day

Tim's Polar experience to date has been land-based which is why on this, his 17th expedition, he will be joined by Australian sailor Don McIntyre. Don has also undertaken a recent re-enactment in 'the old way', during which he too lost some 50 lbs. In June this year, sailing the *Talisker Bounty Boat*, he successfully re-created the mutiny voyage, under the same conditions and with the same navigational equipment as Captain William Bligh, who embarked on the 4,000 mile open boat journey through the Pacific Ocean 221 years ago.

Don will skipper the replica *James Caird*, which will be named *Alexandra Shackleton* after the expedition's Patron. His Number Two will be Dave Pryce who was also on the Bounty Expedition.

Tim's Philosophy

Why does Tim Jarvis put himself through these extremes? Partly to plumb the depths of his own personality and partly, as a scientist, to discover more about environmental change. This particular expedition is also a tribute to the power of leadership and its importance to team work, both on a small expedition and on a global scale: the world would be a better place if we all learned to pull together. Tim follows the Dalai Lama's advice on problems: there are only two kinds of problem – the ones you can solve, and you don't have to worry about those; and the ones you can't, and there's not much point worrying about those either.

The Expedition Funding



The auction by Peter Pepper

National Geographic are making a film of the Epic Expedition and will fund a support boat to manage the filming. The remainder of the expedition is likely to cost in the region of \$200,000. On 23 September in Bedford Row, Bob Headland (pictured above), Polar expert and Senior Fellow of the Scott Polar Research Institute, was an inspirational auctioneer of a sale of Polar memorabilia. The evening raised over £2000. Which just leaves £120,000 ...

The Replica *James Caird*

The boat has been built at the International Boatbuilding College at Lowestoft, under the supervision of Nat Wilson, and will begin sea trials next year.

Nat explains some of the background to the building:

There was always the danger that people might say, 'Oh, but it's not a real replica'. In some ways they would be right. The original was built of Baltic pine planking on steamed oak timbers. It would have been prohibitively expensive to get Baltic pine of suitable quality and cost, not to mention the environmental aspects of transporting timber from the Baltic, so we used European larch from Scotland. In addition, safety considerations require a degree of watertight bulkhead installation. Shackleton would not have had this luxury but undoubtedly would dearly have liked it! The deck is the final divergence: the original was timber plank decked for a small section forward and aft and then, just before the departure from Elephant Island, this was further decked, except for a small cockpit, with dismantled sledges and canvas. The replica has a full deck of pine boards and canvas.

In all other aspects she is a true replica. Simon Stevens of the National Maritime Museum, who oversees the care and transport of the original, was extensively consulted, and Calista Lucy, Dulwich College Archivist, kindly let my students and me visit on a number of occasions. This meant we were able to replicate faithfully the shape, scantling sizes, and build method.



Moulds set up on lofting floor

Of course we also read all we could, including the accounts of how McNeish (as ship's carpenter) built up the Caird's sides by three planks fitted to the original hull with short timbers, and to an extended stem at bow and stern. He bolted a section of a spar onto the hog/keel to strengthen the keel and allow a mast step for the main mast. We have done just the same. (The mizzen mast was stepped on the aft thwart.) The plank seams are caulked with cotton, as they were, and the seams paid up with putty mixed with white lead paste. We have not yet touched up the seams with artist's oil paints – all they had before the voyage to South Georgia – but we can supply the paint for the team if they need it on the day!

One last point of difference: our Caird replica may be a quarter of an inch longer than the original ...



All moulds in place



Steaming in ribs



Deck structure going in



Water testing on Oulton Broad

Shackleton and Ireland

A Centenary Celebration

On 14 December 1909, Shackleton visited Dublin to give an illustrated lecture entitled 'Nearest the South Pole'. The lecture was exceptionally well attended; this famous explorer, after all, had been born in Ireland. He was, in some respects, coming home.

The centenary of this event, celebrated on 14 December 2009 in the same building, also attracted the crowds. The evening included a variety of entertainment and took place in what is now the National Concert Hall. There were readings from original reports of the lecture, a presentation of the Nimrod Expedition by Jonathan Shackleton, a selection of 'Antarctic-themed' poetry readings and some recordings of Sir Ernest himself.

The evening ended with the premiere performance of a unique piece of music-theatre, especially written for the centenary celebrations, by Michael Holohan.



The title, *Where a Single Footprint Lasts a Thousand Years*, was inspired by the composer's knowledge of the Nimrod Expedition: when returning from their attempt to reach the South Pole, Shackleton's team were able to retrace their footsteps in the snow, despite having walked 700 miles. The composer wanted to recreate this ancient atmosphere of a world frozen in time. The resulting work, featuring actors, musicians and a selection of unique pre-historic instruments, including horns, gongs and whistles, told of the absolute stillness of these snowy wastes contrasting as it does with the maddening interludes of howling wind.

The centenary event was well covered in the Irish press and on television. Jonathan, Sir Ernest's cousin and an Antarctic explorer in his own right, was joined by a large party of Irish members of the extended Shackleton family.

Shackleton Autumn School

22–25 October 2010

The School was established by the Athy Heritage Centre-Museum and provides a forum for the discussion of polar exploration and the presentation of relevant artistic work. To mark the School's 10th anniversary, Alexandra Shackleton will unveil a plaque at Athy Town Hall on 23 October – the first public monument dedicated to the Kildare born explorer in the county of his birth – and on 24 October Michael Holohan's composition of music-theatre will be performed.

The Athy Heritage Centre-Museum has the only permanent exhibition anywhere devoted to Shackleton. (www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie)

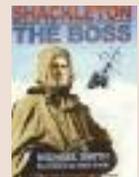


The Dublin Port Company launched two new tugs in March. One was named Shackleton, and the launch was attended by members of the family, including Noel Shackleton (pictured) who still farms near where his grandfather's cousin, Sir Ernest, was born.

Shackleton leads literacy drive

The enduring legacy of Sir Ernest Shackleton has been used in a campaign to boost the literacy levels in his birthplace, County Kildare.

The Boss, by Michael Smith, is a biography of Shackleton written especially for younger readers. It was selected from thousands of books to lead the literacy project for children and their parents at Derrinturn National School, around 35 miles north of Shackleton's birthplace.



The project was launched in January 2010 with the aim of generating interest in one subject by persuading children and their parents to read and discuss *The Boss*. The organisers also arranged a variety of workshops around the theme of Shackleton's life which covered drama, art, creative writing and quizzes.

Michael Smith's book for younger readers about the exploits of Shackleton's companion (*Tom Crean – Iceman*) has also been a success in Ireland and now forms part of the national curriculum.

Michael Smith said: 'It is a great honour that *The Boss* was chosen ... and it is highly appropriate that Kildare should choose the inspirational life of Shackleton, the county's most famous son, to lead this campaign. I know from my experience with *Tom Crean – Iceman* that literacy campaigns can make a real difference to people's lives. Poor literacy is a terrible barrier to social justice and I fancy that Shackleton himself would have approved of a scheme which gives children and adults a better chance in life.'

Film and Fashion

Super model



Shackleton's Suit

The Shackleton Burberry Antarctic Suit, which normally graces the North Cloister at Dulwich College, took off in style during September for a whirlwind tour of fashion's hotspots: first Milan and then Paris. On loan to the Italian fashion design company, Lanificio F LLI Cerruti SPA, the Suit took part in the firm's autumn show in Milan Milano Unica - Ideabiella and then moved on to Paris for the French leg of the tour, entitled Premiere Vision. Shackleton's suit was chosen for this pivotal role in the autumn collection because this season's designs are based on historic work wear. The costume was originally made by Burberry for the Kenneth Branagh film *Shackleton*. It was based on the

original fabric - a glazed cotton gabardine, known as 'wind clothing' - and made to the original design of a one piece jacket, a hood with button back peak, a pair of mittens with leather palms and a pair of drawstring 'cargo' style trousers. The costume was donated to the College in 2002 and has only been 'on tour' once before when it was lent to the National Maritime Museum at Falmouth in 2006/7 for the Endurance and Survival Exhibition.

Film star

Unlike Shackleton's Suit, the *James Caird* is quite used to being the centre of attention and has played a role in many films and documentaries, as well as having toured extensively. This year has been no exception:

In May James Cracknell, the Olympic rower and adventurer, came to Dulwich College to film an introduction to Frank Hurley's film *South*. This was due to be shown on the Discovery Channel in December but since then James was involved in a serious bike accident while filming another show. He is on the road to recovery but the company has decided to delay the premiere of the film until 2011, probably February. Hurley's film documented the Endurance Expedition 1914-1917, during which Sir Ernest Shackleton had to abandon 22 of his men on Elephant Island and set out for South Georgia in the *James Caird* with five companions. On the fifth attempt, and after four and a half months, a rescue ship managed to get to Elephant Island and rescue the abandoned men.



James Cracknell with the James Caird

In July a film crew from RAI (the Italian equivalent of the BBC) came to film the *James Caird* as part of a programme about Sir Ernest Shackleton. Piero Angela is a veteran film-maker and has been writing and presenting documentaries about explorers for the past 13 years. For the final programme in his long-running series he has chosen two iconic British explorers, Shackleton and Livingstone.



Piero Angela and Calista Lucy

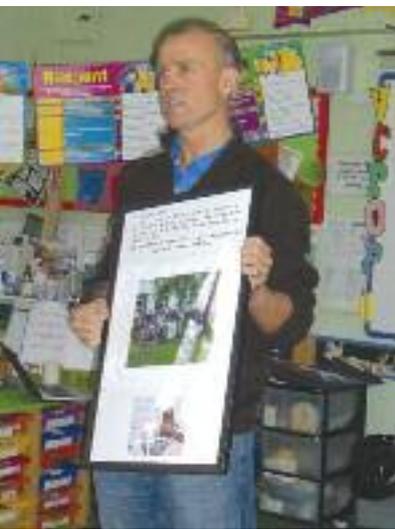
I AM my story -	- I cross over between things -
- a red rope across a white landscape -	- because -
- I am the wind - - and the silence -	- I can only save myself by saving others.
Dedicated to Sir Ernest Shackleton and his team who knew how to turn defeat into an unforgettable victory	

Contributions from readers

Worsley's generosity

I have been a member of the James Caird Society for five years and thoroughly enjoy the meetings and talks. One year we were lucky enough to share a table with Henry and Joanna Worsley and were thrilled to hear of the planned Centenary Expedition. We exchanged email addresses and I wondered if Henry would talk to the children in the primary school where I teach.

As the date for the expedition loomed, I feared he would be too busy but, on the contrary, a date was set. What's more he offered to take an item from the children to the Pole with him. Considering the strict weight limit, this was an incredibly generous gesture! We took a picture of all the Year 6 children and staff and had it transferred on to fabric to make a flag.



Henry duly visited the school and gave an inspiring talk. He brought his kit, including sledge and skis, and even made some expedition porridge for the children to taste. And he promised to fly our flag at the Pole!

The children followed the expedition on the website and used it as a springboard for various literacy projects. When the expedition was over, they wrote a letter of congratulation and a plea for him to return.



He had promised he would but we understood that he may well be otherwise occupied.

He did return and gave another inspiring talk. He also presented us with our flag, framed, and accompanied by a handwritten message and a photo of him holding it at the Pole. It hangs outside my classroom and, although the children pictured have now moved on, it serves as a reminder and inspiration to the generations who follow. Henry Worsley is an amazing man who accomplished an amazing feat in his journey across the Antarctic. Equally impressive are his generosity and ability to inspire. Not only did he follow his hero's footsteps, he also passed on to a group of children from south east London some of the Shackleton spirit, and an experience that will stay with them forever

Sarah Penney

From Elephant Island

Today we landed on Elephant Island, from where Shackleton set off on his epic 600 mile voyage to South Georgia. In the morning we landed on the south end, which is easier, and saw more penguins and seals. In the afternoon we took the ship round to Point Wild on the northern coast, where his men made a camp and where most of them spent four months in the Antarctic winter, while the band of six went for help.

It was a wild desolate place, even on a better afternoon. They lived on a small ledge with just a rock to protect them from the open sea. Cold winds (katabatic winds) howled down from the nearby glacier and our ship began to drag its anchor. When we

tried to pull it up it was jammed under a rock and took some time to clear. So, although we were well fed and well looked after, we were aware of what a wild and unpleasant place it could be – especially when the men had no idea of when (or even if) Shackleton might return.

As a boy who went to the same school as Shackleton and who walked past the *James Caird* almost every day during my secondary school years, it was moving to see at first hand where that journey began.

Ian Newton – Old Alleynian

Save the Poles

Polar explorer Eric Larsen has departed on his quest to summit Mount Everest, the final leg of his Save the Poles Expedition. This will be the first time journeys to the South Pole, the North Pole and the summit of Everest have been undertaken in a continuous 365-day period. In January 2010, Larsen and his team completed a 750-mile, 48-day ski traverse to the geographic South Pole.

Subsequently Larsen and a separate team reached the geographic North Pole in April after a 51-day, 500-mile push that included snowshoeing and skiing across shifting sea ice and sometimes even swimming across open water sections of the Arctic Ocean.

www.savethepoles.com

Full circle

I was born just after Hillary and Tensing conquered Everest. Their story played an important role in my early life and tales about men of adventure and exploration figured in many of our books. Imagine my excitement to find myself, at the age of six, living near the bottom of the world in a place where explorers regularly dropped by.

Our own journey south had been an adventure in itself. A long luxury 'cruise' to Montevideo, followed by a five day battering on the tiny RMS *Darwin*, a ship which at that time was the only regular link between Port Stanley and the rest of the world. This last part of our voyage was rough, very rough. The rest of my family were seasick for the entire journey but I escaped and was left in peace for five days to read my adventure books.

The Falkland Islands in those days provided the perfect setting for children embarked on a life of adventure and exploration. Signs of earlier voyages of discovery were everywhere. The *Great Britain* was beached in nearby Sparrow Cove but, far more exciting, was the hulk at the end of our very own jetty. A rotting wooden carcass covered with kelp and barnacles – perfect for the climbing feats of a band of fearless explorers.

Then we discovered genuine explorers in our midst. Vivian Fuchs, who – with Edmund Hillary – had crossed Antarctica in the late 50s, was the Director of the Falkland Island Dependencies Survey and men who had travelled with him would visit Port Stanley on their way to and from further dangerous-sounding trips and expeditions. My parents would entertain them and I would get their autographs!

HMS *Protector*, a predecessor of *Endurance*, would also visit, bringing with her more men of action anxious to scale new heights in Antarctic exploration. (There was always a wonderful children's party aboard the *Protector* at Christmas; but that's another story.) Amongst the crew members was Commander Burley, whose recent sad death is reported on Page 6, and who soon became a close family friend.

Before setting off on one of his epic expeditions, Malcolm held a farewell dinner for his team in a London restaurant. By this time, my family and I were back in England and were privileged to be invited to this illustrious event. Completely awe-struck by these courageous pioneers setting off in the snowy footprints of one of the greatest explorers of all time, I never dreamt that some 36 years later I would be asked to oversee the day-to-day running of Jan Piggott's comprehensive exhibition *Shackleton: The Antarctic and Endurance*, nor that, a mere ten years afterwards, I would be invited to edit the James Caird Newsletter. Life comes full circle ...

Dorothy Wright – new editor

An enduring legacy

A Ministry of Defence report released in March stated that the Royal Navy's ice patrol ship HMS *Endurance* could have capsized or run aground off Chile following a major flood on board in December 2008. The findings stated that it was a 'near loss' incident and 'clarity of command' had been lost when the engine control room flooded.

The flood happened when a valve opened without warning because air lines attached to it had been incorrectly re-installed. The report states: 'Had the ship's anchor not taken hold over the only shallow patch that *Endurance* happened to drift over, there was a very real possibility that she would have been lost either by running ashore or by succumbing to the flood and the motion that she was experiencing ... The ship's company on board HMS *Endurance* at the time performed in an outstanding manner in the most difficult circumstances.'

The ship was later brought back to Portsmouth while a decision on her future was made. That decision now appears to have been taken and reports suggest a vessel from Norway will join the fleet next year thus saving an estimated £30m repair bill. It is unclear whether the navy will buy or lease the replacement icebreaker, which may be given the name *Endurance*. The ship's mission, like that of its predecessor, will be to patrol and survey the Antarctic and South Atlantic.

Meanwhile David Mearns, the world-famous deep wreck explorer, has not ruled out plans for locating Shackleton's *Endurance* in the Weddell Sea. Mearns is currently the toast of Australia after his discovery earlier this year of the WW2 hospital ship *Centaur*.

He has described the challenge of locating and recording the *Endurance* as 'the search to end all searches'. Despite the potential difficulties, he remains confident about his ability to succeed – once he has raised the \$10 million needed to fund such an ambitious project.



Endurance being carried home to Portsmouth



The James Caird Society

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 the name of Sir Ernest Shackleton KCVO. These qualities proved invaluable during the ill-fated but glorious Endurance Expedition when Shackleton maintained his men's morale while they were stranded for months on the ice without hope of rescue. This achievement, combined with the subsequent feat of bringing the whole team home safe and sound, is unique in the history of exploration.



*The Hon Alexandra Shackleton with
Nat Wilson of the International
Boatbuilding College*

The *James Caird* is the 23 foot (8m) whaler in which Shackleton and five of his men made the epic voyage of 800 miles (1,300km) from Elephant Island to South Georgia during the Antarctic winter of 1916 in order to get help for the rest of the team. The original *James Caird* is preserved at Dulwich College, Shackleton's old school in south London, as a memorial to an illustrious old boy. The replica will next year be formally launched by the Hon Alexandra Shackleton, President of the James Caird Society. Sailing as *Alexandra Shackleton*, the boat will then attempt that epic journey once again. (See Page 10.)



The replica James Caird awaiting sea trials which will begin next year

Membership application form

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

- £55 / US\$110 for three years, or
- £100 / US\$200 for six years, or
- £20 annually (*for UK residents only, payable by bankers order, subscription year begins 1 July*)

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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: www.jamescairdsociety.com

Cheques should be made payable to The James Caird Society and should be sent, with the relevant form, to: Mrs Pippa Hare, The Hon Secretary, The James Caird Society, Fig Tree Cottage, High Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EN, UK

(Tel/fax: +44 (0)1580 714944 · email: jamescairdsoc@aol.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.



*The original James Caird undergoing the ultimate sea trial!
(By kind permission of the Dulwich College Governors)*

The James Caird Society 2010

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