



The James Caird Society Newsletter

Issue 19 · Summer 2013

An Epic Expedition – completed



Photograph: Jo Stewart

James Caird Society news and events

The Endurance Expedition Centenary

On Friday 1 August 1914 *Endurance* sailed from London on the first leg of her epic voyage. On Friday 5 December she left South Georgia for the Antarctic.

The first celebration of the Centenary has already taken place in the form of the [Shackleton Epic Expedition](#) led by Tim Jarvis (see front, back, page 3 and pages 7-9)

A succession of other events are planned:

[Imperial Trans Antarctica Centenary Expedition](#) departs November 2014, led by Joanne Davies.

[Shackleton Boat Project](#): Trevor Potts crossed the Southern Ocean in December 1993 and January 1994 as part of his In the Wake of Shackleton Expedition. In Spring / early summer 2014 his near-replica of the *James Caird* (named *Sir Ernest Shackleton*) will be uplifted in Argyll and transported to King's Lynn.

From there she will be sailed down the Great Ouse to Cambridge by crew members from the original In The Wake of Shackleton Expedition. The journey will formally end at SPRI where the boat will then be on display.

[Shackleton's Farewell Dinner](#) will be re-staged by the Devon and Cornwall Polar Society at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel in Plymouth on Friday 8 August 2014.

To mark SPRI's extended exhibition 2014-16 a dinner and lecture evening will be held in Cambridge on Saturday 21 November 2015 (date tbc).

[Dinner and Lecture aboard HQS Wellington](#): Worshipful Company of Master Mariners in Saturday 9 May 2015. This will take the place of the usual May Dinner at Dulwich College.

[Westminster Abbey Commemoration Service](#) Friday 20 May 2016, followed by a reception at the Institute of Engineers.

The Shackleton Centenary Book

There has been a good response from members in connection with the proposed Shackleton Centenary Book and an early draft is being prepared. It is a quality production with handmade leather hard covers (mauve with gold lettering) and is expected to be ready for production this summer and the first 50 copies are likely to be produced then. Order forms will then be sent to all members who have expressed an interest in purchasing either a Subscriber Copy* (£105 incl P&P) or a Standard Copy (£55 incl P&P). * Subscriber copies will all be signed by Alexandra Shackleton.

The SCB will be a compilation of the best Shackleton articles from JCS Journal Number One to Six inclusive. The emphasis will be on the Endurance Expedition although Shackleton's Nimrod and Quest Expeditions will be covered too, along with other aspects of the Boss's life and interests.

Reminder: for those who do not have a copy of JCS Journals Number One and Two the SCB is a 'must' as it includes some excellent articles from these early publications.

The SCB will also include an introduction from Polar luminary Dr Ann Shirley Savours, and highly acclaimed Polar historian Stephen Haddelsey will conclude the SCB with a look at Shackleton's legacy and, in particular, Bunny Fuchs's Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1955/8.

For more information, kindly contact Stephen Scott-Fawcett FRGS, Apt 6, Sutherland House, Cromer, NR27 0AQ, UK. Email: jamescairdsociety@live.co.uk

Note: *The next issue of the James Caird Society Journal is in the early stages of compilation and will be published in January 2014.*

The Society is trying to get email addresses from all members who have one so that we can circulate relevant information and invitations quickly and easily, especially when time is important. If you live overseas, invitations will only be sent by email, and in future applications for places at JCS events will be receipted by email. The Society respects members' confidentiality and no email addresses will be shared with third parties. Please send your email address to our membership secretary Robert Irvine, membership_secretary_jcs@yahoo.co.uk

The AGM 2013 will be held at Dulwich College on Friday 8 November 2013, starting at 5.30 pm.

Following the meeting Angie Butler will talk about

'The Quest for Frank Wild'

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

Meetings in 2014: Friday 9 May and Friday 7 November (AGM) Details of speakers at these two evenings have yet to be confirmed

Elsewhere in this issue:

This page and page 3 Past and future events and meetings Towards the Centenary...

Page 4 Caird on the curriculum – news of educational projects

Page 5 The President's Year

Page 6 An actor remembers

Pages 7-9 Shackleton Epic Expedition report plus a gallery of pictures

Pages 10 and 11 Books and memorabilia

Pages 12 and 13 Shackleton in Ireland

Page 14 Two expeditions

Page 15 A different view

Page 16 How to join the Society

Society Dinners – Friday 5 November 2012 and Friday 10 May 2013

In November Bob Burton gave a fascinating and thought-provoking talk of supposition and second guessing. He attempted to answer the question What if Shackleton had landed: Would he have got across Antarctica?

Bob Burton is an expert on the natural world and an authority on South Georgia, which he first visited in 1964. He was captivated by the Shackleton story and helped to set up the island's museum. He spent two years as a meteorologist/zoologist at the British Antarctic Survey Station on Signy Island. His illustrated lecture looked at Shackleton's proposed route and the equipment that the Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition had. On the one hand he felt that the route may not have been well chosen and that much of the equipment was untested and would have failed. Reasons he gave for this projected failure were: the expedition was put together in seven months; it had some 150 dogs on board but most of these were sheep dogs bought from hill farms in Scotland and Wales, not prepared or suited to the Polar regions; the calorific value of the sledging rations would not have been sufficient to see the team through the environmental conditions; their clothing was also totally inadequate.

On the other hand, he speculated that Shackleton was such a stubborn and determined leader he might have overcome all these deficiencies. Burton has done so much research that he has promised to return and give a further exposition on this tantalising question.

In May, Seb Coulthard brought the excitement of the Epic Expedition to Dulwich College. We had just sipped wine in the company of the original *James Caird* lying peacefully in her current position in the North Cloister. Now we moved to the South Cloister and saw images of the replica, the *Alexandra Shackleton*, in anything but peace.

Seb told us of the reconstruction of the boat – a tough job as there were no drawings. It was 'just an ordinary

lifeboat' of its day. But the replica was described as 'astonishing and beautiful', and the attention to detail that went into recreating the boat – copying the sails, finding original blocks and pulleys, tracking down authentic navigation instruments – mesmerising. Every detail was meticulously followed with each item on the original inventory being reproduced – apart from the shotgun. They are not allowed in the Antarctic nowadays!

The team members all wore period clothing which had to be tested (in Scotland, where else?) and was, as Seb so eloquently put it, 'rubbish'. Today's explorers are used to modern hi-tec gear which works. The team members on this expedition were wet virtually all the time. And the primus stove didn't work very well either, so they were also hungry. And, despite having the added security of a rescue boat nearby, its radar couldn't actually spot them, so they hauled a cooking pot up the mast in the hope that would help. It didn't! With a six to seven metre swell most of the time, the *Alexandra Shackleton* would have been virtually invisible, and it took two men on the tiller to handle the boat. But there were some beautiful sunsets ...

Shackleton's legendary luck followed the team and, although it was a lee shore and the boat was almost wrecked on the rocks, they came in close to the original landing spot. For some of the team, of course, the journey wasn't over; they continued across the mountains of South Georgia – with screws in their boots, and sliding down the snow – just as Shackleton had before them. After 16 days in the same clothes (!), the team reunited at Stromness and later paid their respects at Shackleton's grave in Grytviken, where they were joined by the real *Alexandra Shackleton*, President of the James Caird Society.

'Humbling' was how Seb described the whole experience. It was certainly humbling to listen to the tale from the comfort of Dulwich College, with a deliciously hearty dinner waiting just upstairs!

Shackleton Centenary Voyage November 2014

Ice Tracks Expeditions continue to play a momentous part in Polar expedition cruising.

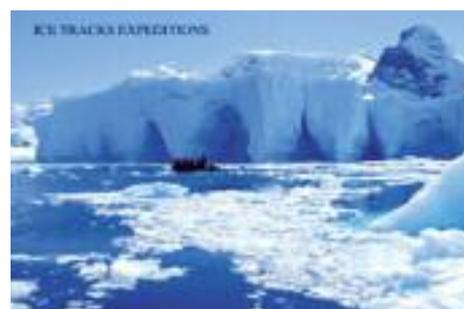
In 2011, as reported in the JCS Newsletter, Ice Tracks were instrumental in taking Frank Wild's ashes back to South Georgia. Now the company is planning a unique centenary voyage in which echoes of the ITEA expedition will play a prominent role.

The route will take in the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the breathtaking icescapes of the Peninsula, plus Stromness, Shackleton's Walk, Grytviken, the Whaler's church, and of course the graves of Shackleton and Wild.

The South Shetland Islands and Elephant Island are pivotal and every effort will be made to make landfall. It

is also likely that Expedition descendants of the Expedition party, including Macklin, James and Hudson will be aboard.

info@ice-tracks.com & www.ice-tracks.com



Shackleton in primary schools



Emma Kerr is a primary school teacher who has a strong interest in the Endurance Expedition since she is Alexander Kerr's great-granddaughter. Kerr was 2nd Engineer on *Endurance*; 1st Engineer on *Quest*.

Emma has been a primary school teacher for seven years, and has relished using various topic-led approaches as a basis for cross-curricular learning. In this way children of all ages can establish greater links and develop an enhanced depth of understanding. One such topic for which she has had a huge amount of success (and, she insists, fun!) is her 'Shackleton and Antarctica' work.

She currently teaches at a small, rural school in Cornwall and has thoroughly enjoyed teaching her Shackleton and Antarctica unit over the last five years as part of a cross-curricular term's worth of work with Years 5 and 6 (age 9-11). She has carefully planned and creatively linked literacy, numeracy, science, geography, history, ICT, art and DT to the topic.

Since 2011, she has been involved with the Education Outreach element of the 'South 2014' expedition led by Jo Davies. Jo and her team will be setting out to complete

Shackleton's original Endurance Expedition route across Antarctica. It will be interesting for schools to be able to compare 'then and now' whilst following the South 2014 expedition.

Emma has also been involved with developing and supporting other professionals: from large teaching organisations to interactive content development companies – all linked to Shackleton and Antarctica. It is a very exciting time and she hopes to see a range of new Shackleton planning resources and tools available for educators and enthusiasts. Her involvement as a member of the Geographical Association's Early Years and Primary Phase Committee has developed her association with schools and universities. In addition, Emma writes articles for various publications with the aim of inspiring future teachers to continue the legacy of using this topic as a basis for learning.

After many years of fellow teachers approaching her via various teacher resource-sharing sites for planning, advice and resources on this topic, she has created her own website. With 2014 marking the start of the centenary of The Endurance Expedition now is the perfect time to create a classroom-based link and the introduction of 'Shackleton In Schools' has facilitated a network of teachers from all key stages, locations and interests to share the topic. Many pupils have already

used the topic as a vehicle to deliver learning, and interest is spreading beyond the UK with links developing as far afield as China and Australia.

The centenary of Shackleton's Endurance Expedition will further heighten the interest and links associated with this epic story. A story of courage and leadership in the face of true adversity, stoicism and belief during complete uncertainty; by endurance they conquered. By bringing this expedition alive via cross-curricular learning, teachers can

nurture children's curiosity. Their pupils are, after all, the new explorers.

Roger Slade



www.shackletoninschools.com

Some Presidential outings during the past year

1 October 2012: To historic Trinity House, home of the Corporation founded by Henry VIII in 1514. The Corporation is responsible for ships and the well-being of mariners, so they are in charge of lighthouses and buoys. Ernest Shackleton was a Younger Brother; and Trinity House owns a clock from the Nimrod Expedition. The President was attending a dinner given by the Livery Company, the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.

26–29 October 2012: To Athy in Ireland for the Ernest Shackleton Autumn School. A great event as always.

30 October 2012: To Cambridge to the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) for a meeting of the Antarctica 100 committee who have been co-ordinating commemorative events for the Scott Centenary and are now starting to plan for the Shackleton Centenary, which starts next year.

13 November 2012: To St James's for the Royal Overseas League (ROSL) Chairman's Lunch.

16 November 2012: A meeting of the Committee of the newly founded Friends of the Falkland Islands Museum and Jane Cameron National Archives (FIMA).

29 November 2012: Meeting of the South Georgia Association.

To Maddox Street, Art Space Gallery, for an exhibition by Bruce Pearson distinguished wildlife artist, specialising in South Georgia and Southern Ocean birdlife.

8 December 2012: To Whitehall for the annual Battle Day (1914) with the Falkland Islands' Association for the annual Wreath laying at the Cenotaph.

10 December 2012: To the Royal Geographical Society for the Geographical Club's Christmas Dinner. The President was Minister of Music for the event. She positioned two flautists in the gallery at the start, whence they descended earthwards to serenade the Club. No programme: the President aka Minister likes surprises.

27 December 2012: An un-outing! The President had planned to go to Heathrow to bid the Shackleton Epic Expedition (SEE) a fizzy farewell. Alas the noro-virus intervened.

4 January 2013: Telephone interview with Radio 5 Live at 12.45 am (yes, really) on the subject of the SEE.

17 January 2013: Interview for Meridian TV. They are Southampton-based, so the President went to ITV in

London and sat alone in a tiny, cell-like room, interviewed through an ear-piece. Ah, the glamour of media.

29 January 2013: To the RGS for a superb exhibition of Antarctic photographs by Enzo Barracco.

4–26 February 2013: Departed for the White South in the good ship *Vavilov*, courtesy of the Canadian firm One Ocean. The focus for the President was to rendezvous with the SEE in South Georgia after they had, hopefully, completed the 'double' – the voyage to South Georgia followed by the crossing of its craggy interior, first achieved by Ernest Shackleton in 1916, and never since. *Vavilov* reached South Georgia and the President had a call from Expedition Leader, Tim Jarvis, saying that the Expedition had triumphed. But high winds kept the *Vavilov* from Grytviken. This was an anxious time for the President; as Patron of SEE she had anticipated this moment during five years of preparation. Then the wind dropped. South Georgia produced its best blue and gold day, so bright it was difficult to see. The President met the

Expedition at Ernest Shackleton's grave. He was toasted and a libation poured, as is customary. A great moment for a very proud Patron.

Then we sailed off into the Weddell Sea and the magnificent Antarctica. All went very well, and even the notorious Drake Passage was calm.

28 February 2013: To the Australian High Commission on the day of her return, the President went to a reception for the

Expedition. It was great to see them all again.

19 March 2013: To the Jubilee Room in the House of Commons to celebrate 20 years of the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust.

18 April 2013: To the Falkland Islands' Government Office (FIGO) for a meeting of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund.

17 May 2013: To St James's to the ROSL for the AGM of the South Georgia Association.

21 May 2013: To Westminster Abbey for the annual service of Wreath Laying for Admiral Lord Cochrane (architect of the Chilean navy), hosted by the Chilean Embassy.

It has been a very special year.

The Hon Alexandra Shackleton, President



Photograph: Jo Stewart

Confessions of an actor

'Proceed', the one-word message from the Admiralty in 1914 which ensured one of the most dramatic expeditions of recent history also inspired Charles Sturridge to write and direct *Shackleton*, his BAFTA winning two-part film for Channel 4. In March 2001 the production was underway and I had the good fortune to be cast in the part of Henry McNish, ship's carpenter.

Filming began in and around London and at Shepperton. The Art department had, with painstaking attention to detail, built the interiors of the *Endurance*. Lines were learned, costumes fitted, make-up applied, nerves exposed with too much bonhomie and loud laughter. We all felt privileged to be part of the story.

On 19 May we flew to Reykjavik where we met up with the *Kaskelot*, a three-masted sailing ship from St Austell in Cornwall. Again the Art department did a wonderful job turning *Kaskelot* into *Endurance*. John, the skipper, gave us a tour of this wonderful wooden ship. They had built a false deck with kennels on either side for the huskies. Almost a replica of *Endurance*.

We filmed about 30 miles off the Icelandic coast for the next three days. The crew of the *Kaskelot* were young enthusiasts who enjoyed what we were doing and had a bit of a laugh at the sight of a few faces getting paler and paler as the seas got bigger and bigger.

The *Polar Bird* had been chartered for the next leg. It was a Norwegian icebreaker that had sailed up from the South Atlantic and was to be our home for five weeks. Conditions were very cramped and basic and, with a film crew of 60 and a cast of 20, it was do or die! Our 400-mile crossing to Greenland was rough to say the least with the *Kaskelot* following in some atrocious weather.

In 2001, between the east coast of Greenland and the sea there was a 30-mile wide shelf of ice, about 1500 miles

long stretching up to the Pole. It was constantly on the move from the north and, as it reached warmer waters, started to break up. The *Polar Bird*'s helicopter would seek a floe large enough to work on, the breaker would make its way through and the team would drill into the ice and moor the ship to the floe. Ship and floe then travelled south together and we would work on the floe until it started to break up. We then travelled north again to repeat the process. A floe with a cast and crew working 12-hour days looked like a scene from *MASH*. Filming the scenes on the small boats, rowing between the floes with their spectacular marine blues and greens was the most amazing experience.

When we were joined by the *Kaskelot* we began filming on the ship close to the ice. It was an odd experience commuting to work from our base on the *Polar Bird* by large dinghy. Far more pleasant than travelling on the London Underground!

The *Kaskelot* finally left in full sail – a magnificent and moving sight! We continued on the ice well into June and then spent a week in Whitby to shoot the Elephant Island scenes, followed by a final month in Shepperton for a month to finish off. A long voyage but nothing like Shackleton's!

I had a great time playing McNish. He was a master carpenter and a dour Scot with a strong anti-authority streak. His grandson told me McNish

had a reputation for being 'a very grumpy man, who hated authority'.

Gold dust to an actor!

Shackleton was a highlight in 40 years of acting. Almost impossible to beat. I was long enough in the tooth to realise that at the time and enjoyed every bit of it.

Ken Drury

(who until recently was in *Woman in Black*)



The Shackleton Epic Expedition

Counting the Cost

It goes without saying that an expedition such as this involves a massive outlay of time, money and other resources. All members of the expedition gave their time for free, and in several cases this meant spending years planning and organising various aspects of the expedition. Other components though have proved expensive.

Through the generosity of sponsors, and with the input of broadcasters, it was possible to raise almost £475,000 needed to get the expedition off the ground, but issues that arose during the project and since mean that costs overran and there is now a shortfall of over £150,000. A large part of this excess relates to issues involving the original Tallship support boat that at the 11th hour was unable to perform the role. Payments involved the need to hire a new support vessel, fees to freight the expedition gear to the new support vessel's home port of Ushuaia, legal and logistics costs associated with both vessels, and some £67,000 relating to downpayments for the original ship that were never recovered.

The expedition leader, Tim Jarvis,



Photograph: Jo Stewart

The team at Point Wild taken with a 100-year-old Vesta pocket camera

reluctantly made the decision to accept a settlement with the original support vessel because further action to try to recover funds would have been very expensive and probably fruitless, and would have prevented the expedition from proceeding. He was confident that Ernest Shackleton would have made the same determination. That the expedition was such a success is hopefully testament to the fact that this was indeed the right decision.

Nevertheless the debts remain and the team would be grateful for any support you might want to give.



Photograph: Tim Jarvis

The Alexandra Shackleton framed by ice at King George Island.

To give readers an idea of how the costs can mount in an expedition...

Costs associated with Tallship support vessel that was unable to proceed

Australis support vessel (2 months hire plus fees for permits, etc.)

Accommodation costs and use of Henryk Arctowski base facilities King George Island

Flights costs for 8-person sponsor group to King George Island (part of contract)

Travel and accommodation costs for 6-man team to Ushuaia and return from Falklands

Building of *Alexandra Shackleton* – including sails, rigging, transport, etc.

Safety items, life raft, neoprene immersion suits, life-jackets, survival suits, etc.

Other modern gear for expedition and sponsor teams x 14 pax

Old gear including personal clothing and equipment x 6

Medical kits

Electronics including emergency gear – satellite phones, flares, VHF radio, etc

Permits and hire of logistician to assist with them

Legal costs

Insurance premium and payments

Media coverage (a requirement from sponsors to promote their involvement: video, website, hire of a blogger, PR company plus three launch events...)

Upgrade to broadband system aboard support vessel *Australis* for blogging and sending images

Travel and accommodation for team for sea trialling, mountain rescue training, etc

If any reader would like to help the Epic Expedition recover some (or all!) of the outstanding costs, contributions both large and small would be very welcome. Please contact Expedition leader Tim Jarvis to find out how you can help.
tim@timjarvis.org or tim.jarvis@arup.com – the expedition website is www.shackletonepic.com

The Epic Expedition



Photograph: Dr Alex Kumar

Ready for action - Shackleton Epic Team



Arrival at Peggotty Bluff



Photographs: Jo Stewart

We made it.

L to R: Nick Bubb, Ed Wardle, Baz Gray, Tim Jarvis, Seb Coulthard, Paul Larsen

Photograph: Skye Marr-Whelan



Seb Coulthard in 1916 clothing

Photograph: Tim Jarvis



Descending into Fortuna Bay, the end is in sight

Photograph: Paul Larsen



Tim Jarvis all tooled up

The last word

Walking into Stromness whaling station in the failing light of 11 January 2013 meant that we had achieved the 'Shackleton double'. The mix of emotions we felt are hard to describe. Certainly there was elation, relief, pride and a great sense of camaraderie amongst the team; but added to this was an overwhelming sense of feeling humbled by our achievement. Without doubt this relates to having come closer to understanding what Shackleton went through on that original journey almost a century ago: the pain, fear, suffering and doubt that he and his men needed to overcome in order to achieve their incredible journey of survival as winter approached.

The majority of his men of course remained behind on Elephant Island, clinging to life. No back-up existed, simply because no-one knew that he or his men were still alive. And they went through all of this after enduring a year and a half on the crippled *Endurance* and the floating pack ice of the Weddell Sea. That we managed to emulate even some of this story, and get close to the kind of determination he needed to win through, is truly

humbling.

That sense of humility, however, also relates to a feeling of gratitude towards all the supporters who enabled us finally to reach Stromness after five years of planning. I am not going to list them all here but this includes our sponsors, supporters, advisers, broadcast partners, well-wishers, friends and, of course, family - without whom our journey would not have been possible.

The majority of an iceberg remains hidden from view beneath the waves and so it is with this expedition. Six of us undertook the boat journey, whilst three of us took the final steps into Stromness after a gruelling journey across the mountainous interior of South Georgia; but we are just part of a much larger team all of whom contributed to our achievement. For that I will be eternally grateful. To you all I say 'our success is your success'.

Tim Jarvis, Expedition Leader

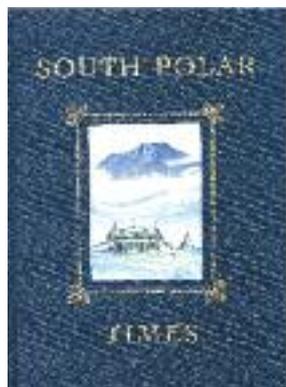
The story of the Epic Expedition will be told on the Discovery Channel in October 2013, exact dates to be confirmed. More pictures, information and the blog are available on www.shackletonepic.com

Books and memorabilia

South Polar Times – facsimile edition

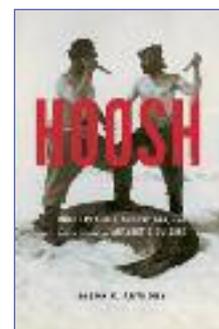
During the darkness of the Antarctic winters a monthly periodical was produced, both serious and light-hearted, which mirrored scientific work, sledge journeys and amusements during the 1901-04 Discovery Expedition and the 1910-13 Terra Nova Expedition. The original issues of these were published in London when the expeditions returned and are now with the RGS and in the British Library. The first editor was Ernest Shackleton, followed by Tasmanian physicist LC Bernacchi and then Apsley Cherry-Garrard who of course went on to write Polar classic *The Worst Journey in the World*. Volume IV (Midwinter 1912) was not published in London on *Terra Nova's* return as it contained no illustrations by Dr Edward Wilson and no reports by Scott, both of whom had perished during the sledge journey back from the Pole. It was edited and illustrated by Cherry-Garrard, helped by Frank Debenham, later Founding Director of SPRI. It contains photographs, doggerel verse and interesting and amusing contributions by Griffith Taylor and members of the small party at Cape Evans who had been left in the charge of Surgeon EL Atkinson RN.

This fourth volume of the *South Polar Times* has been published in a limited edition (500 copies) by SPRI with John Bonham. In keeping with the three earlier ones, it reproduces the SPT in facsimile and has an introduction, commentary and biographical notes by Ann Savours. The Folio Society republished the Ann Savours commentary as a separate volume to accompany facsimiles of all 12 issues of the *South Polar Times*. Their edition is now sold out but some of the Bonham editions remain. Enquiries can be made to John Bonham, Flat 14, 84 Westbourne Terrace, W2 6QE or to info@bonhambooks.co.uk



Hoosh

Hoosh: Roast Penguin, Scurvy Day, and Other Stories of Antarctic Cuisine by Jason C Anthony is a new take on the well-known tales of hardship and hunger on Antarctic expeditions. It is perhaps best summed up in a recent review in the New York Times:



'*Hoosh* is not a cookbook, though it does have recipes. It's not a history, though Anthony retells with gusto the never-stale stories of Shackleton, Amundsen, Scott, Byrd and all the other crazies (sic) who pursued knowledge to the last place in the world at the price of sanity, health and life itself. And *Hoosh* is certainly not another hymn to the heroic age. Anthony brings us up to the present, with visions of the bustling science stations established along the continent's coasts and at the Pole itself. Here admirable feats of co-operation among nations are topped only by the awe-inspiring logistics required to satisfy the culinary quirks of all nations, not to mention their temperamental cooks.

'What ultimately ensures this unlikely book's appeal... is that Anthony is a fine, visceral writer and a witty observer. He paints his cast of questers with a Monty-Pythonesque brush, but balances the telling with a refusal to sneer or giggle. He demonstrates genuine respect, compassion and a kind of hopeless love for his quixotic subjects and their grandiose, miserable hungers.'

Members of the James Caird Society are being offered a 30% discount on Hoosh – from £18.99 to £13.29! Simply order online at www.combinedacademic.co.uk, and enter the discount code CS0613HOOS at checkout. Alternatively, you can order by phone – just call Marston Book Services on +44 (0)1235 465500 and quote discount code CS0613HOOS.

L'Envoi

We shall dream of those months of sledging
through soft and yielding snow;
The chafe of the strap on the shoulder;
the whine of the dogs as they go.
Our rest in the tent after marching;
our sleep in the biting cold;
The Heavens now grey with the snow cloud,
anon to be burnished gold;
The threshing drift on the tent
exposed to the blizzard's might;
The wind-blown furrows and snow drifts;
the crystal's play in the light ...

An autograph manuscript, signed Ernest H Shackleton, of his poem *L'Envoi* was sold at Christie's in October 2012 for £18,750.

Memories of an Ice Dance...

In 2009 Sadler's Wells commissioned four new ballets to commemorate the centenary of the founding of the Ballet Russes by Diaghilev. Each choreographer approached the commission from a different standpoint. Wayne McGregor took a sidelong look with *Dyad 1909*, noting that Ernest Shackleton had found the magnetic South Pole in 1909 and that 20 years later a plane flew over the South Pole – the year Diaghilev died. With these anniversarial links he created an Antarctic-flavoured piece using a new score from Icelandic composer Olafur Arnalds. The stories of all four ballets have been written by Sarah Crompton in *Sadler's Wells: Dance House*, Oberon Books, £25.

Worsley's Almanac



The South Georgia Museum has recently acquired Frank Worsley's Almanac as used between Elephant Island and South Georgia. It was given to Reginald James as a memento by Frank Worsley, and has been in the possession of the James family ever since.

The son of Reginald James, David, has kindly donated the almanac to the museum on behalf of the James family. A note included with the

almanac, written by Reginald James reads:

'Nautical Almanac used by Captain Worsley in navigating the *James Caird* from Elephant Island to South Georgia / April 24th to May 1916 / Given to me by Worsley in Punta Arenas.'

Captain Thilo Natke of the cruise ship *Hanseatic* very kindly couriered the almanac down to the South Georgia Museum. There was a short ceremony with an accompanying speech by Sarah Lurcock, the Museum Director, and the Captain, while Thomas Kennedy, the 2012/13 Curatorial

Intern, unwrapped and displayed the artefact. The South Georgia Museum is very happy to have the Almanac on display. It is displayed with a number of other Shackleton-related artefacts previously donated to the museum.



Captain Thilo Natke (left in the scarf) and Sylvia Stevens (in yellow) of cruise ship *Hanseatic* with SGHT Director for South Georgia Sarah Lurcock and Curatorial Intern Thomas Kennedy of the South Georgia Museum

Hold Fast

Hold Fast: Tom Crean with Shackleton's Endurance by David Hirzel was released at the beginning of April. It continues the story of Tom Crean, begun in *Sailor on Ice*. The books aim to tell Crean's story in the most exciting, engaging way possible. With the exception of a few imagined conversations (clearly identified as such), everything in the book comes from the written record, or from conversations with Crean family members.

Both books are available in paperback from www.amazon.com and in digital editions from www.smashwords.com

Antarctic Survivor

Antarctic Survivor is a new book by the illustrator Ian O'Shea and is available from www.lmnopshop.com. Full of beautiful and atmospheric imagery, the book illustrates a little known story from the 1912 Scott Expedition – the 35-mile solo march of Thomas Crean to save his two comrades from certain death. The stunning illustrations are created with a mix of monotypes and pen and ink.

£12.00 Hardback, 48 pages on Munk Pure paper, hand numbered limited edition of 250, embossed belly band



South Polar Times – still inspirational

A new novel exploring the cultural, social and political effects of climate change is premiering at the Science Museum. Tony White wrote *Shackleton's Man Goes South* after being inspired by a little-known science fiction story about 'climate change' published in the *South Polar Times*, the magazine produced on Scott's ill-fated 1911 Antarctic expedition.

The story was written by the author, Polar explorer and meteorologist George Clarke

Simpson, who became a leading atmospheric scientist and director of the Met Office.

Visitors to the Atmosphere gallery will be able to download *Shackleton's Man Goes South* as a free e-book. The display also features a copy of the September 1911 issue of the Folio Society facsimile of the *South Polar Times*, published to mark the centenary of the Terra Nova expedition and to fulfil Scott's hope that the magazine would one day be reproduced in full.

Plus...

The Truscott copy of the original 1909 printing of the *Aurora Australis*, edited by Ernest Shackleton, is coming up for sale (\$30k). More details from abebooks.com or by contacting Waverly & Rugby Books on 001 (910) 295-5049

waverlyrugbybooks@earthlink.net

Shackleton's Ireland

Endurance on the streets of Dublin

The St Patrick's Day Parade through the streets of Dublin every year attracts up to half a million spectators and a television audience of millions worldwide. One of the most dramatic displays this year was by Waterford-based arts organisation SPRAOI. This is pronounced 'spree' and is Irish for 'fun'.

The theme of the 2013 parade was 'great things happen when we get together'. SPRAOI could think of no greater example of 'great things happening' or indeed of 'togetherness' than to feature the Endurance Expedition and the subsequent voyage of the *James Caird*. They were

also inspired by the fact that three of the six sailors in the *Caird* were Irish: Ernest Shackleton from County Kildare, Tom Crean from County Kerry and Tim McCarthy from County Cork.

As can be seen from the photographs, the display featured floats depicting the *Endurance* and the *James Caird*, plus a whale for good effect. The three floats were pushed, pulled and guided (with much difficulty and many mishaps) by dozens of volunteers, all in period Antarctic costumes which they had made themselves.



The James Caird hoves into view accompanied by a motley crew



Exit stage right, pursued by a whale



Where on earth has all this snow come from?



Health and safety? An intriguing new concept



At least the piano's safe...



Or is it? The whale is gaining fast

An Irish visit to Dulwich College to visit the *James Caird*



On Friday 30 November 2012 John Bardell, vice-chairman of the James Caird Society, received a presentation of a framed pennant to mark the occasion of the visit of the Cobh Branch, Ireland, of the World Ship Society to view the *James Caird* in the North Cloister at Dulwich College. The group of seven were all master mariners or keen enthusiasts of ships and boats. This time they were based at Greenwich for their visit to London; on previous tours they have been to Dundee and toured the *Discovery*, so they were delighted to view the painting of *Discovery* by Malcolm Burns that hangs on the stairs to the Great Hall in Dulwich College.

Exhibition in Dun Laoghaire

As reported last year, *Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*, has found a home in Ireland. The exhibition in the Ferry Terminal, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin has attracted excellent reviews.

'The photographs taken so expertly so long ago tell the story of these brave men. The connections to Ireland very interesting! Well worth a visit! The owner of this exhibition saved this collection for posterity!'

'This is one of the best exhibitions I have ever been to. Don't miss it and give yourself time to absorb the atmosphere created by the use of a video history of Shackleton and the story in photographic sequence, plus a replica of the boat! The Exhibition staff are enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Altogether, a fabulous day!'

www.shackletonexhibition.com

Shackleton's Mills



In October 2012 Janice Tipping (JCS Member and a photography enthusiast) was on her way to the Shackleton Autumn School in Athy when she took the opportunity to visit the famous Shackleton's Mills on the River Liffey, a few miles outside Dublin.

A board there displays the names of the Presidents of the Irish Flour Millers Association. Ebenezer Shackleton, a first cousin of Sir Ernest, was President in 1906/07 and another cousin, George, was President as late as 1959/60. The mills ceased production in 1998 when the premises were bought by the local county council.

As soon as funds permit it is intended to restore the mill and its contents as a major heritage enterprise of benefit to the local community and to visitors to the Liffey Valley



13th Shackleton Autumn School 25–28 October 2013

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

The annual Shackleton Autumn School Festival is a 4-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

Miscellaneous Expeditions

Conservation on canvas

Karl Smith from Newport, Shropshire, was awarded a six-week Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship to South Georgia and Patagonia. The aim of his Fellowship was to record by way of painting, sketching and some photography, the historic remains of the whaling history.

2012 was a good year to visit Antarctica, being the centenary year of Scott reaching the South Pole. More relevant to my visit was the subsequent adventures of Ernest Shackleton. Although I had come to South Georgia to visit the whaling stations, I became absorbed in the connections with Shackleton and his story.

South Georgia presents a challenging destination for any traveller. It is only accessible by sea – there are no airstrips – and the nearest mainland South American port is Ushuaia, four days sailing away and known as ‘the end of the world’. The real challenge was landing. Very sensitive ecosystems mean restricted visitor numbers. Millions of territorial fur seals prevent anyone touching the shore during the summer breeding season, and near-constant strong winds create hazardous swell on all but the most sheltered beaches. I was very fortunate to travel on a small ship with naturalists who had obtained landing permits for restricted sites. The weather was also particularly kind to us, allowing all but one planned landing to take place.

A highlight of my Fellowship was the rare opportunity to land in Cave Cove, where Shackleton and his men first



The artist's impression of Peggotty Bluff

made landfall. Exceptionally calm weather meant I had a chance to sketch here, one of very few people to do so. With a couple of sketchbooks filled, I am now concentrating on producing finished works. I feel that I have visited at an opportune time. Grytviken, the largest of the whaling stations, has been ‘sanitised’ by removing asbestos and loose sheet metal cladding, which is understandable, but I prefer to see the stations in their previous derelict state. This I was lucky enough to do at Stromness, Leith and Ocean Harbour.

I am planning an exhibition and am also selling limited edition prints of some of the works. See them online at www.southernoceans.blogspot.com or email for further details: newportrock@googlemail.com

Fellow Old Alleynians

On a month's leave from the Hong Kong Police I was lucky enough to secure the position of Assistant Expedition Leader on a voyage that included the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula, allowing me to see some of the places encountered by another ex-Dulwich College pupil, Sir Ernest Shackleton.

After several days in the Falklands, our ship sailed to South Georgia where it dropped anchor in Stromness Bay. Once in position the passengers were ferried ashore to look at assorted wildlife and wander through the crumbling remnants of the whaling station abandoned in 1961. Shackleton arrived at Stromness on 21 May 1916 having spent 36 hours hiking from King Haakon bay on the other side of the island. When asked how he completed the crossing and in such a short time he replied, ‘We managed to do it...because we had to.’

Our ship proceeded to Grytviken where visiting expeditions traditionally pay their respects at Shackleton's grave. A toast is given to The Boss, everyone is expected knock on his headstone three times and then take a sip of whisky, pouring what's left on his grave. The ritual had a profound effect on many present. There is an excellent museum at Grytviken and I presented the curator with a Dulwich College tie, navy blue patterned with the College crest. I'm not sure about the origins of the tie but it was the only thing I had at hand and it was well enough received.

From Grytviken, we headed to Elephant Island at the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula and in doing so, retraced (in reverse) the epic voyage of the *James Caird*. Our ship positioned herself off the aptly named Point Wild so that we could examine the icy shoreline along which Frank Wild and 21 others spent four months waiting to be rescued. Even though it was spring, and we were

wrapped in modern winter clothing and had just demolished a hearty cooked breakfast, we were all freezing. Our group discussed the exploits of Shackleton and his men and all agreed that the series of escapades that ultimately resulted in their safe deliverance was, to put in bluntly, beyond belief. Yet it happened. There can be no denying that these men were made of stuff that is rarely, if ever, seen today.

The expedition team on the *Ocean Nova* was largely made up of Polar veterans from Scandinavia and Canada, and it was clear they admired Shackleton more than any of the others from the heroic age of Antarctic exploration. In fact, several wore the classic t-shirts – *Endurance* on the front and emblazoned across the back: Scott for scientific method, Amundsen for speed and efficiency, but when disaster strikes and all hope is gone, get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton.

During my nine years at the College, boys there knew very little about Shackleton. Most would have been unable to tell you much beyond the fact that he was a Polar explorer. I remember seeing the *James Caird* well and truly aground in the South (or perhaps the North) Cloister. Boys were trudging past giving it little more than a second glance and the general consensus was that this was rather an odd place to dump an old rowing boat. Nobody gave a talk on the exploits of Shackleton and his men and looking back now, I consider that to be a great shame. The story of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition is the stuff of legend. I'm not sure if the boys receive such a talk today but I would like to think that they do.

(Editor's note: They certainly do!)

Rob Morley OA from a letter to Terry Walsh, James Caird Society member and Senior Fellow of Dulwich College

A different approach

A new view of familiar subjects



The subject matter chosen by George Gent's paintings have primarily come from interesting places he has visited during his world-wide travels. It was on one of these that he first came across the exploits of Sir Ernest Shackleton and then began his reading on the subject, starting with Lansings's book *The Endurance*. The book



cover provided the inspiration for George's first Shackleton-related painting. This was followed by a portrait of Shackleton. George joined the JCS in November 2012. His painting of the launching of the *James Caird* was inspired by the logo used by the society on their website. George paints in oils and acrylics on canvas and on board.



Prints of the originals are produced on canvas using the French Gecle system, resulting in a high class print reflecting the texture of the original oils. These three Shackleton-related paintings are also available in notelet form, each one individually film wrapped complete with envelope.

To find out more, contact cwmdale@hotmail.com

A new view of familiar subjects / Part 2!

Blasich Giovanni has been an active and enthusiastic member of The James Caird Society since 1997 and, unless anyone knows better, has the honour of being the only Italian of our number.

Before he became a member, he bought a copy of *South* (in English!). In his spare time he began to translate it into Italian. In the Foreword he read that the *James Caird* was in Liverpool so wrote to the Merseyside Maritime Museum in the hope of learning more. They informed him that the boat was not there, and advised him to write to The James Caird Society. Which he did.

A letter arrived from Harding Dunnett, then Chairman, who confirmed the boat was at Dulwich. Mr Dunnett described the activities of the JCS with passion, and invited Giovanni to the next meeting on 16 May 1997 where he encountered the 'glorious' *James Caird* for the first time.

His knowledge of Shackleton expanded after his voyage to Antarctica in March 1999 where he shared a cabin with Jonathan Shackleton. Holding the very compass Shackleton used on *Nimrod*, on the very evening it came to Dulwich College, was an emotional and moving experience.

As a regular recipient of the JCS Newsletter he began to translate it into Italian and presented the full digital set to Alexandra Shackleton at the May dinner this year.

Bollettino di informazioni della James Caird Society, Edizione Estate 2012
N. 18: La Caird nei programmi di studio

La James Caird appartiene al Dulwich College da 90 anni e – tranne che per un soggiorno a Greenwich e occasionali presenze in alcune mostre – è stata in esposizione nella scuola per la maggior parte del tempo. Così è giusto che la storia di Shackleton sia ora parte integrante del programma di studio di 6 scuole nel Southwark e stia rapidamente diventando un elemento essenziale nella formazione di un pubblico ancor maggiore.

Mentre ci avviciniamo al centenario dell'*Endurance*, è più indispensabile che mai trasmettere questa storia eroica alle prossime generazioni. In questo è impegnata da qualche tempo Calista Lucy, curatore dell'archivio del Dulwich College. Dall'ottobre dello scorso anno ha fatto conoscere la James Caird e la storia dell'*Endurance* ad una dozzina di classi di scolaresche delle scuole elementari. Ci sono molte similari visite di scuole programmate per il prossimo futuro.

Per ragazzi cresciuti nel 21° secolo a Londra, la storia deve sembrare a malapena credibile. Calista racconta loro di onde alte 10 piedi (trasformate per loro in metri!), di ghiaccio che scricchiola sotto di voi ed inghiottite tutta intera la vostra nave, del traino delle slitte per miglia e miglia (ed i ragazzi possono vedere le slitte appese alle pareti); li invita a immaginare di strisciare sotto il ponte della James Caird, impossibilitati a stare in posizione eretta. E permette loro di calzare cappelli e passamontagna che potrebbero esser stati indossati dagli intrepidi esploratori. Lei spiega come hanno preparato la barca per il viaggio verso la Georgia del Sud, ammettendo che per cibarsi hanno dovuto uccidere pinguini ed in precedenza i cani. I ragazzi sono ovviamente affascinati dalla tragedia come pure dalle difficoltà e, come era immaginabile, impressionati dall'incredibile coraggio dimostrato dagli uomini. Hanno tutti particolarmente apprezzato i riferimenti personali che aggiungono un significato particolare alla storia: le manopole tengono le mani molto più calde dei guanti perché le dita possono riscaldarsi l'una con l'altra; il direttore della stazione baleniera di Stromness non è riuscito a riconoscere visivamente Shackleton, ma la sua voce non era cambiata; e poi naturalmente la presenza del quarto uomo, l'angelo custode che ha trascinato sulla spiaggia il timone della James Caird e che ha camminato accanto a loro su per le montagne.



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 feat of bringing the team home safely, is unique in the history of exploration.

"Believe me, my young friend, there is NOTHING - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Kenneth Grahame



Photograph: Skye Marr-Whelan

Ed Wardle at the helm of the Alexandra Shackleton



Photograph: Jo Stewart

An epic swell



Photograph: Magnus O'Grady

Lifejackets on! Success nearly ends in disaster. On the approach to South Georgia, the Alexandra Shackleton sails amongst submerged rocks along the ice

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: Mrs Pippa Hare, The Hon Secretary, The James Caird Society, Fig Tree Cottage, High Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EN, UK Tel: 01580 714944 Email: pippahare@btinternet.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 James Caird Society 2013

President: The Hon Alexandra Shackleton
 Chairman: Admiral Sir James Perowne KBE
 Vice Chairman: John Bardell
 Hon Secretary: Pippa Hare
 Hon Treasurer: Tony Parker
 Committee: Stephen Scott-Fawcett, David McLean,
 Doreen Browne, Robert Irvine, Jeremy Mantell,
 Roger Slade, Nick Smith

The James Caird Society, Dulwich College, London SE21 7LD

Registered Charity No. 1044864

Telephone: 01580 714944

Website: www.jamescairdsociety.com

Email: jamescairdsoc@live.co.uk

Editor: Dorothy Wright, dorothymanders@hotmail.com

Design and typesetting by Strathmore Publishing Services, London EC1 and David McLean · Printed by Portland Print, Kettering