



# The James Caird Society Newsletter

Issue 21 · Summer 2015



## In the midst of the centenary – a 21st!

2015 is the year of the *James Caird* and of the James Caird Society. Happy 21st Birthday to the Society, its members and the various incarnations of the boat itself. Pictured on this anniversary front cover, you can see a replica our President visited in Chile (top left); a recent replica, *The Alexandra Shackleton*, pictured top right at the Plymouth Centenary celebrations; an early replica, *Sir Ernest Shackleton*, seen here with Trevor Potts who sailed her on a momentous voyage reconstruction back in 1993/94 (see page 7); and finally the original *James Caird* in its very first location at Dulwich College (see centre pages for the moving story...).

## Key Centenary dates

Fri 21 Nov 1915	<i>Endurance</i> sinks
Sun 24 Apr 1916	<i>James Caird's</i> launch from Elephant Island
Tue 10 May 1916	<i>James Caird's</i> safe arrival on South Georgia
W-F 18-20 May	Mountain crossing of South Georgia
Fri 20 May 1916	Trio's arrival at Stromness – left KHB on 18th
Tue 30 Aug 1916	Elephant Island rescue by <i>Yelcho</i> with Piloto Pardo
Fri 2 Sep 1916	Pardo arrives in Punta Arenas with the rescued men
Thu 15 Sep 1916	Reception of <i>Yelcho</i> and celebrations in Valparaiso

## Expeditions

### Shackleton's Unfinished Business Expedition

Organised by Charlie Paton of Extreme Outdoor Adventures. Departs November 2015 for Trans-Antarctic Route.

### From Fire To Ice

Departs December 2015. Leader Robert Small was badly burned in January 2010 and plans to do the last 97 miles with three medically trained helpers.

### Polish Organised Sailing Regatta

from London to South Georgia. Departed Millbay Docks Plymouth on 8 August; arrived South Georgia 5 January 2015.

### Antarctic Monument Trust Cruise

20 February 2015 - placed monument in Falkland Islands.

### Antarctic Endurance 2016

Commander Tim Winter RN in 67 ft sailing yacht. Departs January 2016 to sail the Antarctic Peninsula.

## Drama, exhibitions, shows...

### Production of Shackleton Opera

by ETO. April-June 2015.

### Royal Geographical Society: Antarctic Witness

South Ribblesdale Museum and Exhibition Centre, The Old Grammar School, Church Road, Leyland, Lancs, PR25 3FJ. An exhibition of Frank Hurley's Photos. An Exhibition and a series of Events in 2015/16 to celebrate Shackleton's Achievements.

### SPRI: 'By Endurance We Conquer' Exhibition

August 2014-May 2016.

### SPRI: Dinner and Lecture day

Saturday 21 November 2015.

Meredith Hooper's fascinating play *Beyond Endurance*, starring Dominic West, featured in April as BBC Radio 4's Drama of the Week. Parts of the 1983 BBC2 TV drama *Shackleton* by Christopher Ralling have been posted on YouTube. It may be released on DVD.

Friday 6 November.  
The AGM will be held at 5.30pm in the South Cloister at Dulwich College.  
Afterwards we will move to the James Caird Hall in the Laboratory.  
A special reception around the *James Caird* will be followed by talks from Dr Jan Piggott and Sebastian Coulthard.  
Dinner will be served at 7pm in the Great Hall.

Meetings in 2016  
Friday 6 May:  
The Hon Alexandra Shackleton also ...  
Friday 20 May:  
Westminster Abbey Commemoration Service

## Elsewhere in this issue:

This page and Page 3  
Past and future events  
Towards the Centenary...  
Page 4  
The official launch of the Celebrations  
Page 5  
The President's Year  
Page 6  
Visiting Chile  
Page 7  
The moving of the boat 1  
Pages 8 and 9  
The moving of the boat 2 plus Founder's Day at Dulwich College  
Pages 10 and 11  
Shackleton and Education  
Page 12  
Shackleton's Ireland  
Page 13  
Miscellany  
Page 14  
Books  
Page 15  
More Centenary activity  
Page 16  
How to join the Society



Group photograph, taken at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel Plymouth, of all the attendees at the Launch of the Centenary celebrations

The Official Centenary Website: [www.shackleton100.org](http://www.shackleton100.org)



## Recent events

### November Dinner

The November Dinner, AGM and lecture took place on Friday 7 November 2014

Kelly Tyler-Lewis is well known for her research into the often forgotten men of the Ross Sea Party. Her book, *The Lost Men*, is a wonderful read, and her lecture on the subject at the November dinner was equally riveting.

The Party's job was to build supply depots across the continent to meet Shackleton and the Endurance party as they crossed from the other side.

The stories of bad luck and tragedy, of poor equipment and inexperience, of loyalty, devotion to duty and dogged obedience made for a harrowing tale, particularly told in the lavish comfort of the Dulwich College Great Hall, with a delicious hot dinner awaiting us.

### May Birthday Party

On Saturday 9 May 2015, members of the James Caird Society gathered on board TQS *Wellington* for a very special buffet lunch to mark the 21st birthday of the Society. The weather was bright and cheerful (if a little on the windy side) and guests were able to enjoy the delicious lunch on deck or under cover. It was a most enjoyable occasion and a real treat to see London from such a beautiful vantage point. These pictures, taken by Nick Smith, show just some of the guests at the event.



## Forthcoming auctions

### Sotheby's London

Exploration & Discovery  
1576-1939: The Library  
of Franklin Brooke-  
Hitching, Part 4, Q-Z  
Exhibition:

25, 27-29 September 2015.

Auction:

30 September 2015

Highlights include rare books relating to the expeditions of Captain Scott and Ernest Shackleton, notably a fine copy of the *Aurora Australis*, the first book printed in Antarctica. The books are noted for their superb condition.

Enquiries: [richard.fattorini@sothebys.com](mailto:richard.fattorini@sothebys.com)  
Tel. 020 7293 5301

### Bonhams Polar Auction

1914-17 Imperial Trans-  
Antarctic Expedition  
Spring 2016

To commemorate the centenary of the James Caird voyage - an auction focusing on the 1914-17 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition and also including significant books, manuscripts, photographs and artefacts from both Antarctic and Arctic expeditions.

For a complimentary valuation of items with a view to auction, please contact:

[books@bonhams.com](mailto:books@bonhams.com)  
+44 (0)20 7393 3817

## The Centenary Celebrations begin ...



The historic sailing ship, Phoenix, sailing out of Millbay exactly 100 years after Endurance

The first celebrations were held at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel in Plymouth, Devon, where Shackleton had spent the night before *Endurance* sailed on 8 August 1914. They were organised by The Devon and Cornwall Polar Society.

The three-day event began on 6 August with a Reception for patrons, speakers, sponsors, the Committee – and VIPs including descendants of those on board the original expedition. A commemorative plaque was unveiled by the Hon Alexandra Shackleton. Dinner that evening was followed by Geoff Selley's talk using Hussey's set of the original glass slides to remind us of the details of the 1914-17 Expedition.

The next day included a busy programme of lectures which began with Paul Davies, DCPS Chairman, welcoming the audience to the meeting and outlining Shackleton's Plymouth connections. This was followed by Michael Smith who gave an interesting account of his views of Shackleton: the man and myth. Michael is the author of a biography, *Shackleton: by Endurance We Conquer*. After coffee Robert Burton, a regular visitor to South Georgia where he was Director of The Whaling Museum, discussed whether Shackleton would have got across the continent, had he landed. This gave rise to an interesting discussion among the audience. Bob ended by saying it would have been impossible but then – it was Shackleton!

The afternoon session, chaired by Julie Ellis, secretary of DCPS, included a moving account of The Ross Sea/Mount Hope depot-laying party, using details from 1915-16 diaries. This talk was given by Wilson McOrist who had recently taken a 30-day sea voyage from New Zealand to the Ross Sea and back to visit the Scott and Shackleton huts in the McMurdo Sound.

Beverley McLeod gave a delightful account of her life on South Georgia where she lived as a child from 1957-61. Beverley is the author of *Under the Shadow of Shackleton's Cross*.

Rob Small then spoke about his plans for From Fire To Ice Expedition in 2015 where a team will attempt to complete Shackleton's unfinished journey on the Nimrod

Expedition. This trip (see Newsletter 2014) will involve a medical team to study the effect of the extreme conditions in the Antarctic on Rob who will be the first non-military burns survivor to walk to the South Pole.

In the evening we were entertained with music by the Yelcho Trio who played their banjo with songs that would have been played and sung by Hussey. There was active audience participation! This was followed by the Centenary Commemorative Dinner hosted by Denis Wilkins, President DCPS, and Alexandra Shackleton as the Guest of Honour. Seb Coulthard, who had been on the recent successful Shackleton Epic Expedition gave the after-dinner speech entitled Celebrating The Past, Inspiring The Future.

Friday 8 August dawned sunny and bright, unlike 100 years ago when gales blew as *Endurance* set sail. The day began with a session called 'Bergy Bits' which included Sir James Perowne, Chairman of The James Caird Society, outlining the proposed diary of events during the next two years to celebrate the Endurance Centenary. At 11am we left for Clyde Quay for the unveiling of the Shackleton Plaque in Millbay Dock by the Hon Alexandra Shackleton. It is hoped that this plaque will eventually be mounted on one of the new buildings of the Clyde Quay Development Scheme.

It was a pleasure to see the *James Caird* replica *Alexandra Shackleton* nearby, the boat that had successfully completed the recent Shackleton Epic Voyage with Tim Jarvis, Seb Coulthard and Barry Gray as part of the crew sailing from Elephant Island to South Georgia. Many people had the pleasure of climbing over this little boat and all were astonished at its small size bearing in mind what Shackleton and his five companions had to endure.

At noon precisely we witnessed the re-enactment of the departure of *Endurance* by the historic ship *Phoenix* which sailed from Clyde Quay accompanied on shore by The Plymouth Pipe Band and The Antarctic Adventurers, the latter having been with us throughout the three-day programme.

*Phoenix* was followed by a small ship, *Polonius*, carrying a Shackleton Centenary banner which had come from Poland to celebrate this event and was on its way to Antarctica. A great cheer accompanied its departure!

Many congratulations to Paul Davies who inspired the meeting, Paul Coslett, the event organiser with the hotel, the DCPS Committee, and the organisers and members of the Society for such efficient organisation of this very special occasion. Thanks also to the staff of the hotel who made our stay so welcome and were so helpful in coping with the influx of visitors for this unique conference to celebrate the start of The Endurance Expedition Centenary 2014.

Doreen Browne

## Some Presidential outings during the past year

### June 2014

The President was invited to Portsmouth to visit HMS *Illustrious*, the largest ship the President has ever encountered. She wished she had seen the helicopters being lifted up, but alas they had flown off the previous day since this was the ship's last day in service.

### August 2014

To the Canadian Arctic! The President was invited by Canadian travel company, One Ocean Expeditions to join the hunt for HMS *Terror* and HMS *Erebus*, Franklin's ships which have been missing since 1845. The Victoria Strait Expedition comprised four ships, assorted support craft and leading edge support technology. Most notable was the 'Arctic Explorer' Autonomous Underwater Vehicle. The ships included HMCS *Kingston*, One Ocean's Ocean Voyager and the ice breaker *Sir Wilfred Laurier*. Only the last two were ice capable.

The Prime Minister of Canada supported the search as did the Royal Canadian Navy, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, the Garfield Weston Foundation, and the co-founder of Blackberry, and Parks Canada.

One ship, which turned out to be *Erebus*, was found, lying in only 11 metres of water. A wonderful moment and a triumph for all involved!

### December 2014

To the Antarctic on a special voyage in aid of the Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute celebrating the Shackleton Centenary.

On to Punta Arenas in Chile to celebrate the launch of a book *Lessons from a Rescue*, the story of the Chilean Navy's rescue of Shackleton's men from Elephant Island. Lieutenant Pardo's ship *Yelcho* was commanded by Shackleton and navigated by Worsley. Lots of Naval hospitality in Punta Arenas! The President was very fortunate to be invited by ALE (Antarctic Logistics & Expeditions) to fly to the Union Glacier and experience a blue-ice landing, only 1000k from the South Pole.

### February 2015

To Finse in Norway. Ernest Shackleton trained in this beautiful mountainous area. The Finse Hotel, where he stayed, is still there and now hosts the annual Shackleton Award. Members of the From Fire to Ice Expedition were training there. The President presented the 2015 award to Ben Saunders.

### March 2015

To New York as a guest of the Explorers Club to celebrate their 'Spirit of Adventure' weekend including their 111th Dinner. Everything was on a large scale. The Friday night cocktail party was on board an aircraft carrier and on the Saturday, the President made a speech introducing Tim Jarvis (Shackleton Epic Expedition) at the UN! The British Ambassador to the UN was sponsoring this event. At the

Dinner for over 1000 at the Natural History Museum, National Geographic announced their proposal to dive on *Endurance*. She lies 10,000 feet down in the Weddell Sea.

Four days after her return, the President flew to Sydney, to open the Australian Maritime Museum's Shackleton Exhibition. A fine Exhibition, combining the *Endurance* story with Tim's Epic Expedition story combining digital technology. Tim Jarvis's boat, *Alexandra Shackleton*, was displayed hanging up on high in the entrance hall.

### April 2015

To the Royal Geographical Society for the Antarctic Club Dinner; to Skinners' Hall for the Gold and Silver Wyre-Drawers Dinner; to the RGS again for the Travel Book Fair; to Glasgow at the invitation of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society to present the Shackleton Medals: Ernest Shackleton was Secretary and Treasurer to the RSGS in 1904. (See page 13)

### May 2015

To Dulwich College for the English Touring Opera's production of *Shackleton's Cat* – an opera for children. It was great.

To La Galleria off Pall Mall to view Jane Hamilton's amazing portrait bust of Shackleton (see page 13).

21 May – to Westminster Abbey for Chilean Navy Day; 22 May – South Georgia Association's AGM at the Royal Over-Seas League.

### June 2015

To the RGS for the AGM.

To St Katharine's Dock to visit the Yacht *XPLore* of the Royal Naval 'Expedition Antarctic Endurance'. The President is the Principal Patron. This is a training expedition, to be led by Commander Tim Winter RN.

To Annascaul for the Tom Crean International Festival at the South Pole Inn which Tom Crean opened when he retired from exploration. The President presented medals to those completing the Endurance Walk: nearly 20 miles over demanding terrain, including Mount Brandon, the second highest mountain in Ireland. The President unveiled the Antarctic stone in memory of Tom Crean, visited his grave and his house and did a talk.

To Founder's Day at Dulwich College: 'Discovery and Endurance' – A wide-ranging and fascinating event. Many interests of the College were represented to mark the centenary of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. There was a ceremony to open the new home of the James Caird in the Laboratory – plus a fanfare followed by speeches by the Master and the President.

What a year!

*The Hon Alexandra Shackleton,  
President, James Caird Society*



## Zaz heads South to Punta Arenas

Chile's southernmost city – Punta Arenas – is one that is alive with the heritage of Polar exploration. Its importance for the past century has been based on the fact that it is a key point of access to Antarctica. Last December Zaz, representing the James Caird Society, travelled there for the celebrations of the launch of the book *Lecciones de un Rescate* ('Lessons from a Rescue') by Alfonso M Filippi. Zaz was accompanied by UK Editor of the *Explorers Journal*, Nick Smith, and both were guests of Nicolas Ibañez, Chairman of FINSA (sponsor of the book) and Vice President of the Corporacion Cultural Arturo Prat Chacon.

Amid many celebratory dinners, presentations and lectures, Zaz was introduced to the grandson of Luis Pardo, captain of the tug *Yelcho* which had rescued her grandfather's men at Elephant Island. Both Fernando Pardo Herto and Zaz made speeches commemorating the anniversary of the achievement. During the trip Zaz also made landfall on Antarctica itself as a guest of Adventure Network International, who flew her on a day trip to Union Glacier, at 79°45' S Zaz's 'furthest south.'

Nick Smith



Photos (by Nick Smith), Top: Zaz meets a local resident who had discovered a studio portrait of Ernest Shackleton in her attic.  
Bottom left: A postcard of the Hotel Jose Nogueira overlooking Plaza Muñoz Gamero. The hotel is today home to the famous Shackleton Bar.  
Bottom middle: Zaz posing with the replica of the James Caird at the Nao Victoria Museum outside Punta.  
Bottom right: Zaz was taken on a tour of Punta and its surroundings in a vintage 1930s Buick seen here passing the Naval Officers Club.

## The Shackleton Boat Project: From Scotland to Cambridge



Robert Egelstaff and Trevor Potts on the *Sir Ernest Shackleton* at Kilchoan, Scottish Highlands. May 2013.



Steve Scott-Fawcett and Roger Slade on 4 October 2014 at SPRI with *Sir Ernest Shackleton* behind in the process of installation.

In 2002 Steve Scott-Fawcett first met Trevor Potts at a James Caird Society AGM. They sat at the same table and Steve learned for the first time of Trevor's incredible expedition: In the Wake of Shackleton Expedition. This had taken place between December 1993 and January 1994.

The full and remarkable story of that expedition is reported in the latest JCS Journal No. 7 (October 2014).

At that dinner in 2002 Steve told Trevor that he would do whatever he could to promote this fine achievement – the first and only wholly unsupported crossing from Elephant Island to South Georgia in the *Sir Ernest Shackleton*, a near-replica of the original *James Caird*.

In 2011 the opportunity arose for Steve to coordinate a plan to restore Trevor's boat on the west coast of Scotland. Prior to this it had been largely unused, and stored in the open at Trevor's campsite at Kilchoan, Ardamurchan. Steve's plan was to bring it to the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge University. There had been an attempt to do this previously by others but it had failed to materialise.

With the generosity of Trevor (who was prepared to gift the boat for public benefit) and the support of Professor Julian Dowdeswell, Director of SPRI, Steve made several journeys to Scotland to see and assess the boat. He made plans to raise funds for its restoration and to coordinate the transportation of the boat for permanent display outside SPRI.



*Sir Ernest Shackleton* being installed outside SPRI

The initial idea was to sail the restored little boat from Kilchoan all the way down to Jesus Lock, Cambridge. This would have been a major undertaking both in terms of costs and time and ultimately proved impractical. In the event, however, with a super-human effort from Trevor and his team of restorers in Scotland, the nearly-new looking *Sir Ernest Shackleton* arrived in Cambridge on a low-loader at 08:35hrs Saturday 4 October. It was quite a moment.

The boat now sits proudly outside the 'foyer' entrance to the Scott Polar Institute for all to see and be amazed. It provides tangible evidence of just how small the little craft is and how extraordinary it was that Shackleton and his men should have made a perilous 800+ mile crossing of the Southern Ocean in the original *James Caird*.

At some point in the future the boat will be covered by a state of the art canopy. This is yet to be designed and funded. For now, it bears eloquent testimony to Shackleton and Scott's shared and heroic Polar destiny. Steve feels that it is wonderful to have been able to fulfil this project during the Centenary years.

The Shackleton Boat Project would not have been possible without the generous support of Ginny and Alastair Woodrow, The James Caird Society, Grace Turzig and the Scott Polar Research Institute.

October 2014



### Endurance and Discovery

It is a recent innovation at Dulwich College that every Founder's Day is afforded a theme. Last year we commemorated the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and next year we will explore the relationship between Edward Alleyn, our founder, and Shakespeare, upon the 400th anniversary of the Bard's death. But in 2015 we chose as our theme 'Endurance and Discovery' and celebrated the College's Shackletonian legacy.

The centrepiece of our celebration was the setting of the *James Caird* at the heart of our new science block, The Laboratory. We marked this with a ceremony in the presence of our guest of honour, the Hon Alexandra (Zaz) Shackleton. Zaz loved the trumpet fanfare with which she entered the James Caird Hall and a good number of the thousands who attended the various events of the day came to hear her speak of her delight with the new berth we have found for one of the College's most treasured and inspiring possessions.

Ahead of this, our Opening Ceremony had seen the children of DUCKS (our Kindergarten and Infants School) parading through the South Gravel to a commentary by the broadcaster Justin Webb. It detailed the heroic aspects of Shackleton's 1914-16 voyage in the *Endurance* and through it we wished 'God Speed' to the Dulwich boys preparing to embark on various intrepid expeditions this summer, notably the 12 boys climbing Stok Kanguri. We were also pleased that the Shackleton Live expedition team spent much of the day with us.

Many of you will know that after some years in which it was not as well cared for as we would today expect, the *James Caird* was put on permanent display in the Barry Building's North Cloister in 1989. It has spent a generation there but as soon as I started planning for a new science block and realised there would be space to house the *James Caird* therein, I had no doubt as to where she belonged: forming an axis reflecting Alleynian adventure, courage and sacrifice with the War Memorial which lies directly in front of the new building.

As the first phase of The Laboratory was completed, in March, the *James Caird* was collected from the North Cloister. In a delicate operation which involved lorry and crane and slipping her into the new building through a gap providing no more than 100 millimetres of space on either side, she was wheeled to her new berth. Here she rests on a cradle in a recess cut through a concrete floor filled with glass crystals, creating an impression of movement through ice.



Jolyon Brewis, of Grimshaw Architects, who designed The Laboratory, is attuned to the Shackletonian echoes of the building and writes: 'I feel honoured to have helped shape the new home for the *James Caird*. The boat brings an incredible resonance to The Laboratory. It has inspired our architecture to be true to its intended purpose and adaptable to future adventures. The design of the building and placement of the boat mean that she can now be seen from every angle at ground level and for the first time from above, allowing every visitor to reflect on, and be inspired by, the achievement of Shackleton and his crew.' It is certainly a source of excitement for our boys that they can stand beside the boat, at the same height as Shackleton in the tiny cockpit, and look up into the atrium, and through the glass ceiling above – 13 metres at its highest point – and imagine plunging through waves that were five metres higher than that.

There was little to endure but much to discover at Dulwich on the last Saturday in June, on a Founder's Day which had many highlights, including a talk in the Wodehouse Library, directly after the *James Caird* ceremony, by that great friend and supporter of the James Caird Society, Jan Piggott. Dr Piggott talked about his new book *Wodehouse's School Days* and revealed that Wodehouse and Shackleton had met just once, at an Old Alleynian Dinner in the 1920s. There's a play to be written about this encounter between the great 'performing flea of English literature', as Sean O'Casey dubbed PGW, and the Boss, those very different Alleynians of whom we are inordinately proud.

Do come to visit the *James Caird* in her new home. I think you will like what you see.

*Dr JAF Spence, The Master, Dulwich College*

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To arrange a visit to see the *James Caird* please contact [reception@dulwich.org.uk](mailto:reception@dulwich.org.uk). Visits can be booked on TUESDAYS between 9:30 and 11:30am (last admittance 11am) or 2 and 4pm (last admittance 3:30pm). There will be no visits on Public Holidays or outside these times. All visits must be pre-booked by emailing Reception.





## The Dulwich College Archive Podcast Project

The project started in 2010 when Peter Jolly (Director of Drama) and Calista Lucy (Keeper of the Archive) conceived the idea of making a series of recordings highlighting treasures from the Archive at Dulwich College. The idea was to ask experts and enthusiasts to talk about an object, building or theme that is of importance in the history of the College.

Originally they were for an internal audience at the College but the idea took off...

This year to tie in with the Dulwich College Founder's Day theme of Discovery and Endurance eight podcasts were made available, each telling a piece of the story of Shackleton and the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration:

### **The British National Antarctic Expedition (1901–04), known as the Discovery Expedition**

The departure of the *Discovery* from Cowes, 6 August 1901 (this hangs on the south staircase to the Great Hall) described by Prof. Julian Dowdeswell, Director, Scott Polar Research Institute

### **The British Antarctic Expedition (1907–09), known as the Nimrod Expedition**

The *Nimrod* Sledge which hangs on the north wall of the North Cloister, described by Robert Swan

*Aurora Australis* which is on display in the Wodehouse Library, described by Robert Stephenson

Shackleton's *Nimrod* Lecture given by Sir Ernest Shackleton from an original sound recording on to a wax disc

### **The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914–17), known as the Endurance Expedition**

*The Prospectus for the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition* which is on display in the Wodehouse Library, described by Philip Storey

The *James Caird*, described by John Bardell, vice president of the James Caird Society

*Bill*, an emperor penguin who stands near the *James Caird*, described by Dr Phil Cue

### **The Shackleton-Rowett Expedition (1921–22), known as the Quest Expedition**

Shackleton's Pall, the Union flag which hangs over the doors to the Wodehouse Library, described by the Hon Alexandra Shackleton

Above: The official opening ceremony. Below left: Alexandra Shackleton and Dr Spence with an ice sculpture of Endurance. Below right: Alexandra with William Grill



## Shackleton and education

As Dr Spence explained on page 8, Founder's Day at Dulwich College this year celebrated all things Shackletonian. So it was appropriate that William Grill, who had just won the Kate Greenaway Award for his beautifully illustrated book *Shackleton's Journey*, came to run a workshop in the Junior School.

The workshop was, appropriately, held in one of the laboratories in the new Laboratory and gave the boys a chance to emulate the work of the award-winning illustrator, as well as creating their own masterpieces – they were doing a mono-printing workshop.

William Grill's work is inspired by scrimshaw art which is scrollwork, engravings, and carvings originally done in bone or ivory. Typically it refers to the handiwork created by whalers made from the byproducts of harvesting marine mammals.

The boys stuck to more user-friendly equipment: they first drew onto polystyrene sheets using pencils and then

engraved the design with a plastic picnic knife. After this they covered the sheet with black ink and finally pressed the design onto paper.

As one mother pointed out, even boys who are not generally confident in an art environment were inspired by the opportunity – despite the fact that it competed with the popular Founder's Day fare of penalty shootouts, hotdog vans, haribo prizes...

Loosely inspired by Polar exploration was the 'igloo' created out of recycled material by the College's youngest pupils from DUCKS. There was also a parade of snow leopards and penguins and, perhaps a little more authentically, the appearance of a group of boys dressed much as Shackleton himself dressed for the Endurance Expedition. They were wearing the costumes for a play to be produced next term and apparently it was NOT as hot for them as it appears; the Antarctic apparel was actually made of calico.





## Endurance Workshops

In last summer's issue of the JCS Newsletter we reported on a play based on the Endurance Expedition that had been performed at a number of venues in Switzerland and Italy. The play was written and acted by Stefania Mariani with support from Michele Montalbetti.

Stefania has now taken this production forward and is performing it in a number of schools in Switzerland. The play is the focus of two-day sessions which also include discussion and workshops with the students. During the run of these workshops more than 1,000 young people between 12 and 16 will have been involved across the Ticino Canton of Switzerland.

As well as all aspects of the expedition the students are given information about Ernest Shackleton's adolescence and the early years of his working life. Themes of

leadership and working together, working in a team are an important part of these participatory sessions. The students' teachers are involved too. There is also a link with the Damiano Tagmani Society, a charity that promotes non-violence in young people.

Given the focus of the James Caird Society in remembering and celebrating Sir Ernest Shackleton's life and legacy, this is a significant and welcome initiative. Not only does it tell the story and bring history alive but is being used in an active way to explore with students the individual, personal lessons that they can learn today. It is education in all its aspects, based on the derivation of this word, 'educare', 'to lead out'.

*Roger Slade*

### A poem of tribute by Tony Ward

Tony Ward is the writer of a monthly series of Poetry Puzzle Poems for *Sussex Life* magazine. Readers are invited to guess the subject of the poem from embedded clues. The June 2015 offering should pose no problems for JCS members, but if you would like to look at the full answer, go to <http://bit.ly/1eg2LYU>

Who is it? Endurance  
Eight years before the mast,  
Master Mariner, Explorer,  
Hero in an age of heroes.

A leader of a different type,  
small wages, bitter cold,  
darkness, danger, doubts –  
but a man to bring us safe  
through triumph or disaster.

In British waters – War.  
In Polar seas, another foe,  
The stirring ice, the giant below.  
Endurance trapped, a lethal vice,  
a broken hull, the giant's price.  
Endurance tested.

The open boat,  
six men against the storms,  
against the odds.  
His men – stranded, rescued, returned.  
They never doubted.  
The Boss,  
inspired, inspiring,  
"spouting lines from Keats",  
lines by heart,  
but a heart that failed.

Now written in stone,  
A line to remember a life.  
A name to live in the minds of men,  
ships, boats, trains and planes,  
a crater on the moon. Legacy,  
a name that lives in history

### A parody of Rudyard Kipling's *If*

If you can stand the *Quest* and all her antics  
When all around you turn somersaults upon her deck;  
And go aloft when no one has told you  
And not fall down and break your blooming neck;  
If you can work like Wild and also like Wuzzles  
Spend a convivial night with some old bean,  
And then come down and meet the Boss at breakfast

And never breathe a word of where you've been.  
If you can fill the port and starboard bunkers  
With fourteen tons of coal; and call it fun;  
Yours is the ship and everything that's in it  
And you're a marvel; not a man my son.

*Ernest Shackleton*

### Tim Jarvis visits Shackleton's birthplace

This year I finally set sail for the Shackleton Autumn School and found it to be a wonderful experience for a whole series of reasons. The hospitality and kindness shown by Seamus and Frank Taaffe and their team, the enthusiasm and depth of knowledge of the attendees in all aspects of the Shackleton story and the insights offered up by the co-presenters were all highlights. So too the generous support for the auction of expedition items at the Saturday night dinner and the standing ovation I received before speaking. May the trend continue!

Perhaps the greatest highlight however was taking the time to visit Shackleton's birthplace, Kilkea House at Neale Webb's invitation. Initially it felt like just what it was – a relaxing drive through the rolling green countryside albeit somewhat different from the Antarctic where Shackleton chose to engage in his great white warfare. And then we made our final approach to the house – instantly recognisable from those sepia tinted family photographs of old. For all intents and purposes the same, but for a doubling in size of the monkey puzzle tree on the right hand side and the absence of his sister Kathleen on the left. Quite a moment.

Richard Greene then invited us in for a drink and to see Shackleton's bedroom now transferred into Richard's sons' room. Despite the superficial modernity of kids' toys and posters on the walls, the experience was quietly powerful and atmospheric. For me it represented a real closing of the loop having sailed and trekked to his final resting place on South Georgia and now, fittingly, to his birthplace. Something of a death to birth journey and perhaps the right way round for someone whose memory we want to ensure lives on... A big thanks to Neale and Richard for the wonderful opportunity.

*Tim Jarvis*



*Tim Jarvis relaxes in the former Shackleton home*



*Kilkea House with the monkey puzzle tree*

## 15th Shackleton Autumn School 23–26 October 2015

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



On Tuesday 28 April Alexandra Shackleton presented two Shackleton Medals on behalf of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) in recognition of the extraordinary citizenship and leadership of those involved in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

As the medal is named after Sir Ernest, who was a Director of the RSGS, the Society was delighted that Alexandra not only presented the medals but also gave a speech that highlighted examples of outstanding leadership from her grandfather's Antarctic expeditions.

The presentation was held at Glasgow City Chambers. Robert Smith (Lord Kelvin), who accepted a medal as Chair of the Games' organising Committee, said, 'I am thrilled to be awarded this and really pleased to be awarded it jointly with the people of Glasgow.'

Sadie Docherty, the Lord Provost of Glasgow, on presentation of a second medal added, 'I am incredibly proud to accept this medal on behalf of the people of Glasgow.'

Over many decades geographical research has been exploring the value of sport in defining national identity and how it contributes to economic and social regeneration. The approach to legacy planning adopted for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, which had community at its core, and the embracing welcome from the people of Glasgow has helped to redefine the value of sport in unifying people.



*Alexandra, flanked by the Lord Provost and Lord Kelvin with Clyde, the Games' mascot, getting in on the act*

The RSGS is a long standing educational charity established in 1884. The Society celebrates all things geographical, including promoting the subject in schools and universities plus running public talks by leading figures in exploration, science and discovery – inspiring generations of people to learn more about the world around them.

*Malcolm Good  
Trustee of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society  
[www.rsgs.org](http://www.rsgs.org)*

## A new view of Shackleton



On board the 2014 Shackleton Centenary Voyage to the Antarctic, sculptor Jane Hamilton began a project: to create her own tribute to 'this incredible, inspiring leader of men'. The resulting portrait, seen here, was exhibited at the annual London exhibition of the Society of Portrait Sculptors. It excited a great deal of interest and there is still much debate about its future resting place...

To find out more, please visit Jane's website: [www.janehamilton-sculpture.com](http://www.janehamilton-sculpture.com) or contact her on [jahamall@hotmail.com](mailto:jahamall@hotmail.com)

## Sledging flags – a follow up

I read with interest Jan Piggott's article (Newsletter 2014) which mentioned Shackleton's desire to take his sledge flag on the tilt at the Pole during the Discovery expedition. I thought it may be of interest that this seems to have been a three-way debate between Scott, Shackleton and Wilson.

Wilson recorded in his diary entry of 19 September 1902: '...there has been a good deal of talk about the flags lately. On each of the three sledging excursions I have been on so far I have flown my flag, but the Captain has taken a dislike to his and says there will be no flags on the long southern journey. I said I should certainly not go without mine, if I had to sew it into my shirt. He said I could do that if I liked, but he wasn't going to take his, adding weight for mere sentiment. Shackleton agreed with me and we are both going to take ours...Anyway I am not going anywhere without mine...'

All three men ended up taking their sledge flags.

Wilson retained his enthusiasm for flags during the Terra Nova expedition. He took to the Pole his sledge flag and a Gonville and Caius (University of Cambridge) College flag, plus in miniature: a Union Jack, a New Zealand National Flag and a Norwegian National Flag. All these flags, along with others belonging to Bowers and Scott, were recovered from their final camp.

*Malcolm Good*

### Shackleton: A Life in Poetry by Jim Mayer

Shackleton's love of poetry is well-known; indeed James Caird Society members are often treated to a poetic offering by the great explorer in these pages. This new biography by Jim Mayer is the first to look at Sir Ernest's life primarily through poetry. It includes many of his own poems and poetic diary extracts, as well as allusions to his favourite poets – amongst them Tennyson, Browning, Kipling and Service – and shows how their work infused his life and influenced the way he led his expeditions. For Shackleton poems remained 'vital mental medicine' throughout his life. They inspired his speeches, his letters to his wife and the way he led his men.

Jim Mayer is an expedition leader and a guide in the

Arctic and Antarctic where he specialises in Polar history. He has led his own life of exploration, having skied across the Greenland ice cap and survived an attack from hungry polar bears. He regularly visits the locations of Shackleton's story, such as the Weddell Sea, Elephant Island and South Georgia.

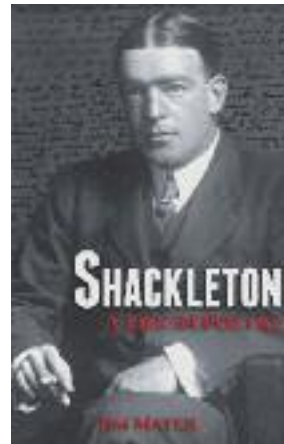
Publication date: October 2014

ISBN: 9781909930100

Pages: 176

Price: £9.99 paper

Subject Area: Poetry / Travel Writing



### Shackleton's Boat: The Story of the *James Caird* by Harding McGregor Dunnett

(Republished with a Foreword by The Hon Alexandra Shackleton)

The *James Caird* is an unlikely hero, a 23-foot lifeboat that completed the most desperate and celebrated open boat voyage in history. On board were Ernest Shackleton, Tom Crean and Frank Worsley, now some of the most recognised names in the field of Antarctic and Polar literature/history.

This is the story of that little boat from its commissioning by Worsley to its dramatic escape from Antarctica to its final resting place at Dulwich College in the UK.

Shackleton's Boat is a worthy memorial to a vessel famous in maritime history, and a story whose heroism has inspired generations.

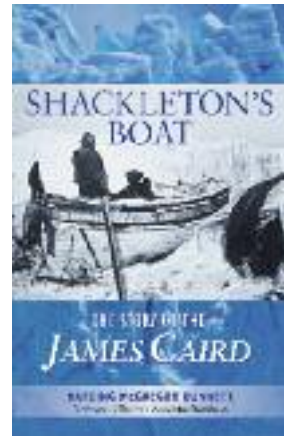
Harding McGregor Dunnett (1909–2000) grew up mainly in South London. He was a pupil at Dulwich

College when the boat first arrived there. His interest continued throughout the years and, besides writing this book, it led him to found The James Caird Society to perpetuate the memory of Shackleton's heroic days and the boat which served him so well.

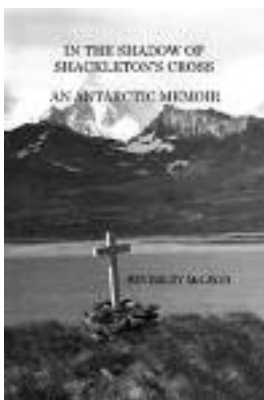
Roderic Dunnett, Harding's son, is a British journalist specialising in the Arts and Travel. He has written extensively for *The Independent*, *New Statesman*, *Stage*, *The Oldie* and *Opera Now*, but also for *The Strad*, *The Spectator*, *FT*, *The Scotsman*, *BBC Music Magazine*, Welsh National Opera, the Royal Opera and Opera North.

Price €12.99/£10.99 • Paperback • August 2015

978-1-84889-2125 • 250 pp • Travel/Adventure



### In the shadow of Shackleton's Cross by Beverley McLeod



The memoir of a young girl's experiences in the whaling community of South Georgia. This is a story of love and fear, the light and dark side of such a harsh environment and the impact it had on her and on her family. A six year-old girl arrives at King Edward Point, a settlement of eight houses huddled at the foot of a mountain on the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia. Around the bay is Grytviken, the most successful Whaling Station in the world at that time. This is the story of the four years

she spent without going to school and largely with only herself for company. It is also the story of the whaling industry and of the people whose livelihoods depended upon it.

### Shackleton's Journey by William Grill



William Grill's use of coloured pencils and vibrant hues

place his art somewhere on the artistic spectrum between Raymond Briggs and David Hockney, and his fastidious cataloguing of every single detail of the expedition is nothing short of a Blackstock collection.

He was awarded the Kate Greenaway medal 2015 for this book, the youngest winner for 50 years of an award which is one of the oldest for children's literature. Read about his workshop at Dulwich College on page 10.



**South Georgia Association  
Penguin City Meeting – Edinburgh  
30–31 October 2015**

The South Georgia Association will hold the second meeting for 2015 in Edinburgh, a city with many connections with South Georgia and the Antarctic.



Christian Salvesen of neighbouring Leith sent whaling ships to South Georgia from the early 1900s, and the RRS *Bransfield* was built here by Robb Caledon Shipbuilding in 1970. The newly-married Ernest Shackleton lived in Edinburgh in 1904 while Secretary of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, and Chas. Mackinlay and Co. (now Whyte and Mackay) dispatched 25 cases of malt whisky for the 1907 British Antarctic Expedition from Leith, of which three were discovered in 2007 under the Nimrod hut. Three bottles were returned to Scotland for recreation as Shackleton's Whisky in 2011.

There will also be a Shackleton Whisky presentation and tasting led by Richard Paterson (Master Blender of Whyte and Mackay) at the adjacent Holiday Inn on the Friday where Scottish haggis – the infamous ‘great chieftain o’ the puddin’ race’ – will be served.

The Saturday presentations will be held in the Budongo Lecture Theatre, the chimpanzee enclosure, of Edinburgh Zoo. Delegates will be able to view the primate inmates (or vice versa) and enjoy a ‘behind the scenes’ tour of Penguin Rock facility.

The weekend will conclude with a dinner at Channings Hotel (which now incorporates the house where Ernest Shackleton lived) and we’ll raise a glass in memory of the abandonment of *Endurance* in the pack ice of the Weddell Sea on 27 October 1915 – a century earlier.

For full details contact Bruce Mair on  
0131 621 0532 or  
07733 110878 or  
bfm@dahlstrom-mair.com

**Centenary stamps and more...**

For full details of a philatelic promotion from the Mawson's Huts Foundation, in which there are covers featuring the wonderful South Georgia stamps featuring Frank Wild's Antarctic Expeditions with Scott, Mawson and Shackleton, have a look at [petesolarplace.com](http://petesolarplace.com)

The website also features other material about Shackleton and Hurley.

**Shackleton's Carpenter  
A play by Gail Louw**

... a bare black stage with spotlights on the bow of a grimy wooden rowing boat and a plummy voice extolling the triumphs of explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, followed by 1930s tea-dance music, is an unlikely opening.

Then, from under the boat's tarpaulin, emerges a gaunt, dishevelled man in grubby long-johns and woollen hat. He is Harry McNish, the ship's carpenter from Shackleton's *Endurance* crushed in the Antarctic ice in 1915. The voyage that he, their leader and four others then made in an open boat across 850 miles of the fiercest seas on earth remains universally recognised as one of the most incredible feats of seamanship ever. But this play is not a tale of derring-do, more the hard-bitten reminiscences of McNish, now homeless and living in a derelict boat on the quayside in Wellington, New Zealand. With his mind filled with demons and fuelled with whisky, McNish confronts the ghost of his former leader. He loathes Shackleton for his arrogance and especially for killing his beloved cat, Mrs Chippy, before they embarked on their epic voyage in the boat adapted and strengthened by McNish and without whose shipwright skills they would not have survived. Other humiliations, compounded by Shackleton's refusal to recommend him for the Polar Medal awarded to other expedition members, are recounted in vivid detail.

McNish is played by experienced Scottish actor Malcolm Rennie, alone on stage for an hour and a half. His spittle-filled rants at his ghostly skipper, and the venom he hurls at crew member Orde-Lees for his selfishness, are spellbinding. At other moments he is calm and wistful as he recalls growing up in a large impoverished family in Glasgow... and the poetic beauty of the Antarctic wilderness. Louw's writing is outstanding; Rennie's performance is a mesmerising tour-de-force of unparalleled intensity.

*From a review in the Eastbourne Herald by Roger Paine*

## The James Caird Society is 21!

Founded by Harding McGregor Dunnett in 1994, the JCS is a charity dedicated to honouring the remarkable feats of discovery in the Antarctic and to commending the qualities of leadership associated with Sir Ernest Shackleton KCVO. These 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 and is celebrated – very differently – in the photographs below.

### Email addresses please!

The Society communicates with members by email in preference to post (snail mail) where possible. Overseas members receive the newsletter and invitations only by email. Please keep us updated with your email address to our membership secretary, Robert Irvine, at [membership\\_secretary\\_jcs@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:membership_secretary_jcs@yahoo.co.uk)

### 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 by bankers' order*)  
*Subscription year begins 1 July*

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Name .....

Address .....

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Telephone .....

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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, payable to The James Caird Society, should be sent 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@hotmail.com](mailto:pippahare@hotmail.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.



Gathering at the Plymouth Centenary Celebration of some of the descendants of the crews of Endurance and Aurora: Rickinson, Kerr, Shackleton, Hooke, Mackintosh, Greenstreet and Wordie



The James Caird on the roof-top garden of Selfridges in London in 1920 (This picture and the original James Caird on the front cover – by kind permission of the Governors of Dulwich College)

All photographs of the Centenary Celebrations at Plymouth are reproduced by the kind permission of The University of Plymouth

### The James Caird Society 2015

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

Editor: Dorothy Wright, [dorothymanders@hotmail.com](mailto:dorothymanders@hotmail.com)  
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