



THE
JAMES CAIRD
SOCIETY

SHACKLETON'S LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

The James Caird Society Newsletter

Issue 27 · Summer 2021



Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

**'In the darkening twilight I saw a lone star hover
Gem-like above the bay.'**

(Entry in EHS diary 4 January 1922)

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Society Dinners

Friday 22 November 2019 is now a distant memory – the occasion of the last dinner, which was held at Dulwich College, followed by a talk by Simon Stephens, Curator of the Ship Model and Boat collections at the National Maritime Museum.

All of 2020 and most of 2021 have passed with none of our usual get-togethers, although at time of writing a Grand Summer Barbecue was being planned for Friday 13 August. This will take place in a completely different venue – on board HQS *Wellington*. Let's wait and see...

The 2021 AGM is scheduled for Friday 5 November at 5.30pm.

This will, as usual, take place at Dulwich College, with drinks in the James Caird Hall, followed by dinner in the Great Hall. The speaker at the November dinner will be Skip Novak who hopes to entertain members and their guests with his delayed talk 'The South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia – where there is science there is adventure'.

(All that is certain at time of writing is the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia are on the UK's Green List for travel!)

A May Dinner is definitely on the cards for 2022 ...

A Quest Event in the South West

The Devon and Cornwall Polar Society will be marking Shackleton's final expedition on Friday 24 September 2021. The QUEST100 event will be taking place at The Duke of Cornwall Hotel in Plymouth. The day of celebration and commemoration will include talks and discussions – and lunch! Full details of the programme, as well as booking details, can be found on the DCPS website: www.devonandcornwallpolarociety.org.uk

Quest Expedition 1921

The converted Norwegian sealing boat originally earmarked for the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition was renamed *Quest* by Emily Shackleton in March 1921. The newly converted schooner sailed from St Katharine's Wharf in London, cheered by a large crowd, on 17 September 1921, almost exactly 100 years ago.

Smaller than the usual vessels used for Antarctic exploration, *Quest* suffered from both poor sailing performance and frequent engine problems. The crew was a mixture of new faces as well as several of the loyal team who had been with Shackleton on *Endurance*. These included Frank Wild, his second in command, Frank Worsley, *Quest*'s skipper, the doctor Alexander Macklin, Leonard Hussey and of course Charles Green the cook.

The expedition planned to sail along previously unvisited stretches of Antarctica, ultimately making a complete circumnavigation of the continent, as well as exploring for mineral resources in the area. *Quest* arrived in South Georgia in January 1922 shortly before Shackleton's fatal heart attack on 5 January.



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Latest News on the Final Quest Voyage, February 2022

Two years have elapsed since Shackleton's Final Quest Voyage was a mere twinkle in the eye; now it is only seven months away! Two years ago, no-one imagined that our normal lives would become a 'new' normal.

All the optimism pumped out by travel companies and travellers could not stop the cancellation of the 2020 Arctic season followed by the cancellation of the 20/21 Antarctic season and then, to our dismay, the second Arctic season has now been cancelled.

Today, plans A, B and C, protocols, guidance and safety nets, meetings with our ship operator and calming the jitters of our passengers are all in week's work.

To ease further jitters we will not be asking for final payments until the Antarctic season takes off in early November: the 120-day pre-sail final payment is now 90 days. The Argentinean government, with all ship operators and IAATO (The International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators), are planning a 'safe corridor' for travellers to embark and disembark in the port Ushuaia.

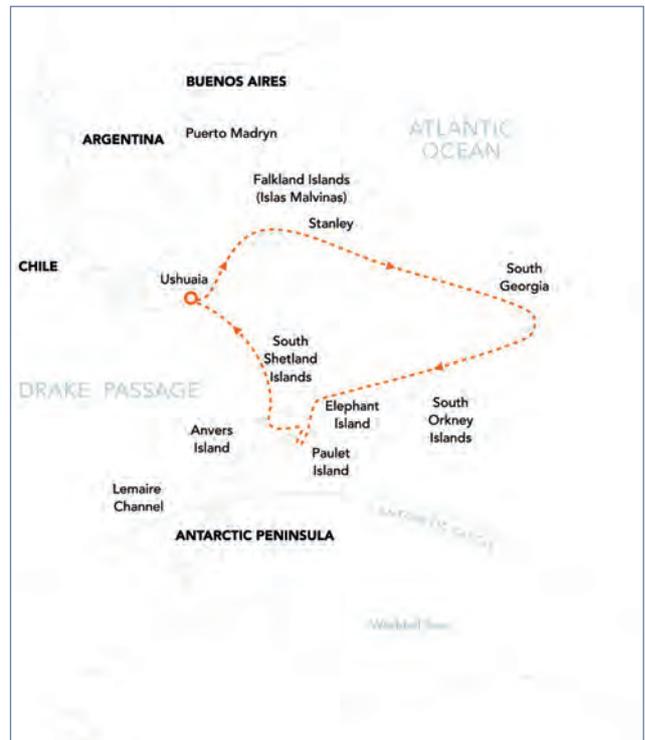
All the ship operators are requesting passengers to be fully vaccinated before embarking. PCR tests will be carried out before embarkation to ensure the safety of everyone on board and minimise risks. We will book flights as soon as we feel confident that IAATO and the CLIA (Cruise Lines International Association) have given the industry the thumbs up.

The Montevideo extension is planned at the end of the Voyage to keep embarkation as simple as possible. More information on the extension will follow.

We can confirm that Peter McCarthy, grandson of Mortimer and great-nephew of Tim, will be on board, as will Falcon Scott and Seb Coulthard, the very popular Shackletonian, This is just the tip of the iceberg of esteemed guests and passengers who are joining us.

We currently have one cabin and two single berths available. This may change and further cabins may become available.

We remain buoyant for the 'new' normal and bursting with excitement for the voyage. At present we are working



on all those lists that will soon be popping into your inbox: clothes lists, packing lists, itineraries and flight schedules, to name but a few.

When MS *SeaVenture* sounds her horn and drops the bow-lines as we turn South, it will be time to crack open those chilled bottles of bubbly ... Never before will they have been more welcome!

Please contact us if you have any concerns. For further information please use these links:

<https://www.ice-tracks.com/event/shackletons-final-quest/>

<https://www.ice-tracks.com/covid-safety-onboard-ms-seaventure/>

Angie Butler, finalquest@ice-tracks.com

Left: paying respects the graveyard at Grytviken; Right: entering The Whalers' Church at Grytviken



Antarctic Quest 21

The Antarctic Quest 21 Expedition will undertake critical science to support understanding of how we are impacting on the Antarctic continent, with special focus on climate change and microplastics contamination. The expedition is a fitting tribute to Shackleton, marking the centenary of his untimely death just as he was embarking on his own scientific expedition of the Antarctic continent.

The Expedition comprises an eight-person team of explorers, led by Paul Hart, who all have considerable Polar experience that will enable them to deal with the extremely hazardous and challenging conditions they will face on the Antarctic Peninsula. They will have to contend with severe storms, the dangers of avalanche and crevasse, and they will need to haul loads in excess of 100kg across mountainous terrain to achieve their scientific objectives.

The expedition will collect snow samples from completely isolated and unvisited areas of the Peninsula to allow analysis of microplastics contamination. This project, in collaboration with Dr Imogen Napper of Plymouth University, will look at the long-range atmospheric transport of microplastics. 'Understanding exactly how far microplastics can travel is the next big scientific question and their presence in snow taken from the Peninsula will show they are reaching every part of our planet, even those areas cut off from any human activity.'

The team will also undertake work to support Prof. Michiel van den Broeke of Utrecht University, in his modelling of sea-level rise due to the melting of Antarctic ice-sheets. Predicting how ice-sheets behave is critical as the melting of the Greenland and Antarctic ice-sheets alone would raise sea level by 60m. Other work will concentrate on determining the way the Peninsula is responding to ice-melt through isostatic rebound, what types of rock comprise the Antarctic Peninsula and the importance of the Southern Ocean in the global carbon cycle.

The team is comprised primarily of serving and ex-military personnel and is supported by the MoD. HMS *Protector* will play a key role in deploying the expedition team on to the ice. JCS President, the Hon Alexandra Shackleton, is Patron and a key supporter of the Expedition. More details www.antarcticquest21.com



Sheet Ice with Mountains in the background (copyright Paul Hart)



Trying to find a route through the crevasse (copyright Paul Edwards)



Hauling into the Unknown, Antarctic Peninsula (copyright Paul Hart)

The Last Great First ...

October 2021 will see another challenging expedition which aims to emulate the spirit of Shackleton: Gareth Andrews and Richard Stephenson, both medical practitioners, will attempt to become the first team in history to ski across the continent of Antarctica, including its two permanent ice shelves, unsupported.

Their success over this 2600 km, 110-day expedition will be testament to tenacity, determination and meticulous planning. Day on day, the trek will further our knowledge of rarely traversed sections of Antarctica, how humans perform in extreme conditions and our continuing impact on this most pristine of environments.

The Last Great First will bring the future into focus for a new generation, underlining the importance, majesty and fragility of Antarctica and its pivotal role in our survival on this planet. This trek will highlight the urgent need for the protection of these vital systems through a deeper understanding of and investment in Antarctic science. More information can be found on their website. www.thelastgreatfirst.net



ReQuest 2021: What a Marathon Row!

As we would expect from the determined Kent Scouts who are raising money for ReQuest21, their Antarctic Research project (see previous Newsletters and website), the team achieved their goal – to clock up 1500 kilometres (the equivalent of 800 nautical miles or 933 miles!). This of course was the distance covered by Sir Ernest Shackleton and five of his men on the *James Caird* between Elephant Island and South Georgia. The Row-a-Thon team began their 'journey' in April on two high-profile rowing machines set up on either side of the *James Caird* itself, accompanied by a huge band of supporting rowers participating simultaneously on machines all over the world.

And they did it! The Row-a-Thon team covered 800 nautical miles in 17 days – just as the *James Caird* had done 105 years ago. They have raised £1167.23 so far – and they are still at it, determined to have 'circumnavigated Antarctica' by rowing a total of 22,000 kilometres by Christmas Day 2021.

To find out more – and donate – please go to the website www.request.org.uk

Or watch them in action as they sail under Tower Bridge on Friday 17 September 2021 exactly 100 years after *Quest* left London.



The rowing machines and their rowers beside the James Caird at Dulwich College

Shackleton: an inspiration



Dulwich College's engagement with local schools had been at an all-time high prior to the first lockdown, with 1,200 pupils from over 20 schools booked for tours. The College was extremely keen to support these primary schools to teach the topic of Antarctic

Exploration even if they could not visit the site; so the decision was made to commission a film about Shackleton and the *James Caird* that could be emailed alongside a pupil workbook and a resource pack for teachers.

Like Shackleton's voyages, this enterprise could not have happened without the support of the wider OA community, in this case Hal Howe a young Old Alleynian film-maker who took on the project. The study of Shackleton and his heroic feats is part of the KS2 curriculum and the James Caird Society welcomes and supports this educational initiative which brings Sir Ernest's qualities of leadership to life in such an inspirational way. The film can be seen on the Dulwich College website: www.dulwich.org.uk/about/history/the-james-caird

A Specialist Subject

Dulwich College was contacted in November 2020 by one of the producers of BBC's *Mastermind* who wrote: 'A local contender has reached the grand final of *Mastermind* and has chosen the specialist subject of 'Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition 1914-1917'. With that in mind, we would love to film him talking about his subject choice in front of the *James Caird* and we would be happy to include one of your experts to discuss the exhibit'.

A date in December was found when COVID19 restrictions were briefly lifted and Calista Lucy, Keeper of the Archive, was filmed showing the contender Dan Afshar the balaclava belonging to Dr Alexander Macklin and Shackleton's prospectus for the Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition (aka *Endurance*). Dan promised that if he won the competition he would return to the College with the trophy and talk to the boys. Sadly, he came second!

A new bust of the Boss

A bust entitled 'The Boss' has arrived at Dulwich College as a fitting addition to the Shackleton display in the Laboratory, also home of course to the *James Caird*. The bust was created by the late Ian Arthur Milner, a member of the James Caird Society and a great admirer of Shackleton. He commenced his career (like Shackleton himself) in the Merchant Navy in the aftermath of WWII. He then qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and in retirement took up sculpting. This is not the only likeness he created of Shackleton; another sold at auction in September 2020. This one was gifted to the James Caird Society by his executors following his death in April 2020. His son, Hugh Milner, served in the Royal Marines including a stint on HMS *Endurance* in Antarctica. Dulwich College are going to be the custodians of the bust on behalf of the JCS and members will be able to view the work at future dinners and lectures, including, it is hoped, at the much delayed event on 5 November 2021.



Everyone needs to break out occasionally



Visitors to London's trendy Sloane Square, or to our own even trendier website, will have been amazed to see the world's most famous lifeboat bursting through a shop window. It turned out to be not the *James Caird* itself (still safely ensconced at Dulwich College) but a faithful replica created by Seb Coulthard, JCS member and veteran of the 2013 Epic Expedition. The shop, simply called 'Shackleton', is the brainchild of Ian Holdcroft and Martin Brooks, long-time admirers of Sir Ernest and his optimism and courage. 'Shackleton' sells a huge range of outdoor expedition-ready gear and the team has now launched Shackleton Challenges, a series of unique expedition experiences in extreme environments, led by record-breaking Polar explorer Louis Rudd MBE – the first Briton to cross Antarctica solo, unsupported and unassisted, and the only person in history to have crossed it twice on foot – the Challenges have been developed to suit accomplished explorers and novices alike, offering an opportunity to

break away from the everyday and to explore regions such as Antarctica, Norway and Svalbard and to train mind and body for the thrills and extremes of polar expeditions.

Shackleton Co-Founder, Ian Holdcroft, said: 'Our goal is to enable people of all abilities to develop their skills and experience in some of the world's most spectacular and extreme environments. I know from my own expeditions that taking on a challenge can have a transformational impact on our entire lives ... This is the motivation behind each one of our meticulously planned itineraries.'

Captain Louis Rudd MBE adds: 'There is rarely a day that goes by where I don't reflect in some capacity on one of my major polar expeditions. You learn so much about yourself and that's why I think they are genuinely life-changing experiences.'

www.shackleton.com

Pictorial round-up of this issue's stories



Left, top: Shackleton's memorial Cairn nowadays (see Page 1 and 2)

Left, middle: View from HMS Owen taken by a young Medical Officer in 1961 (Page 11)

Left, bottom: The River Barrow flows through the town of Athy near the Boss's birthplace (Page 15)

Below, top: Shackleton's Critic Eric Marshall was also a surgeon ... (page 14)

and inset: Aeneas Mackintosh after surgery to remove his eye by Dr Marshall

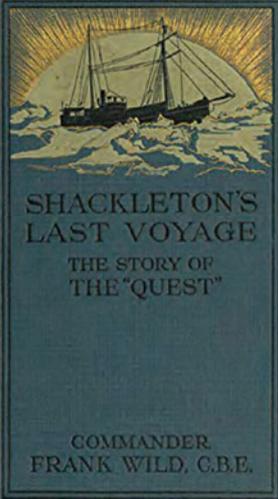
Below, bottom Inspired to row (Page 5)



James Norton's model of the James Caird is cut away to see all the detail down below (Page 13)



Frank Wild described the expedition he continued after Shackleton's death



Above: A rare picture of Quest from a brochure in the Dulwich College Archive (Page 6)



Above: The Folio edition of Aurora Australis (Page 15)
 Right: Seb Coulthard's replica of the James Caird on the King's Road at Christmas 2020 (Page 7)



Prince Philip's visit remembered

The recent death of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, revived memories of his marathon tour of 1957 during which he visited both South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. An account of his time in the Falklands, written by 14-year-old Ben Jaffray, was awarded the Community School prize of the Jane and Alistair Cameron Memorial Trust in 2020. Unfortunately, it is too long to reproduce in full but it gives a wonderful flavour of the event:

'Soon after the Duke of Edinburgh had anchored, the Falkland Island Defence force (FIDF) fired a 21-gun salute welcoming him to the Falkland Islands. This must have been a very big celebration at this point due to there not being a Royal visit to the Falkland Islands for 75 years.

The Duke of Edinburgh landed on the public jetty at 9:00am, wearing a naval uniform and sporting his new beard that he and his private secretary and equerry Lt-Commander Michael Parker had both decided to grow since leaving New Zealand. He was welcomed first by Governor Oswald Arthur, who was to be accompanying him everywhere on his visit, and secondly by members of the Executive Council, Legislative Council and Heads of the all the Churches including their wives.

Then The Duke of Edinburgh walked along the front road (Ross Road) which had been decorated especially with banners (the first one saying 'Welcome Your Royal

Highness), bunting and flags. That wasn't the only thing the Town were doing to try and make the Duke feel welcome; bigger efforts were made and some Government Offices had a new coat of paint especially for his visit. The Duke then greeted and inspected the Guard of Honour by the Royal Navy, FIDF and the Royal Marines. Ross Road had been closed to traffic between the hours 9:00am to 10:00am due to the public of Stanley wanting to greet the new Royal arrival. He then passed the Boys Brigade and Girls Life Brigade, which were on parade each side of the road. Beside them were the local school children and the general public. By the time the Duke had finished walking along the front road he had arrived at the corner of Dean Street at Arch Green, where there was a car waiting for him to be taken to Government House to get changed and make his way to his next engagement.'

The Dictionary of Falklands Biography also refers to the Duke's visit to South Georgia in an article by the late Dame Anne Griffiths, the Duke's personal librarian, who was on the voyage in 1957. She wrote:



'RY *Britannia* sailed from Fox Bay in West Falkland on 9 January. At 9am on 12 January *Britannia* anchored in Leith Harbour, South Georgia, amid magnificent Antarctic scenery on a lovely sunny day. The Duke of Edinburgh and his party went ashore and toured the Salvesen whaling factory before embarking in the whale catcher *Southern Jester* for the 20-mile run down the coast to Grytviken, the Pesca station and factory. On the way an old packing case was thrown into the sea and the gunner demonstrated his skill and the gun's capabilities by blowing it to bits at a range of 70 yards. When asked if it was a case of whisky he had fired at, the gunner replied, "If it had been I'd have missed."

At Grytviken His Royal Highness re-joined *Britannia* and entertained a small party to lunch. Then he went ashore to visit the government station at King Edward Point and saw the Post Office-cum-Customs office, the Radio and the Met Station before walking along the beach to the headland where the plain white cross in memory of Sir Ernest Shackleton stands. He watched two fin whales being flensed in the factory and then visited Shackleton's grave in the cemetery. When Prince Philip returned on board, *Britannia* sailed at high speed to the Bay of Isles where he landed close to the large King and Gentoo penguin rookeries and spent some time watching these splendid birds.'

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Memories of a naval Medical Officer

In 1961 Ranald Mackinnon was Medical Officer on board HMS *Owen* on a tour down south. Here are a few excerpts from his fascinating diary. (See also reference to the HMS *Owen* 1961 tour in Newsletter 2018, page 13.)

Sunday, 12th February – Icebergs at 0700 and the coastline of South Georgia visible for the first time at 1115. A splendid sight of towering black peaks and white snow. An exciting moment and I feel almost festive! ... Numerous birds are diving and wheeling around as I stand on the quarterdeck – white tubinares with black and white wings, giant petrels and the usual albatrosses. Arrived in Elsehul around 1400 and anchored. Boats were lowered to go in and collect the camp party who came off at about 1500 – complete with three South Georgia teal, a King penguin, a fur seal and two (dead!) blue-eyed shags. The penguin and the fur seal soon regained their liberty but the teal are destined for Peter Scott at Slimbridge.

Monday, 13th February – Weighed and proceeded from Elsehul at 0900 to Leith harbour. Weather steadily improved as we steamed down the coast and by about 1100 we were in bright sunshine, with the land almost clear of cloud. All the way down, the view was one of beautiful snow-covered peaks and ridges, with the occasional glacier.

Wednesday, 15th February – Landed on Bird Island – at Jordan's Cove, I believe. Greeted by many fur seals, shags and the inevitable skuas. Climbed up the slope behind the campsite to where the albatrosses were nesting. I was intending to go further but the skuas started diving on me and I gave up. ... Wrote three letters quickly, thinking that they would get away tomorrow but did not post them as I realised that we would be back here before Shackleton (Antarctic Survey Ship) leaves. She is due around next Thursday.

Friday, 24th February – Got under way about 0530 for Leith. A heavy swell and very overcast sky. The usual cloud of mystery surrounds our actual objective. Anyway, we are going to get and transfer mail, either in Leith Harbour or off King Edward Point. Eventually we arrived off the Point, where *Shackleton* was waiting to collect our mail and then she was off.

Sunday, 26th February – A fine day for a change. Sounding all day after lowering Heron and making contact with the Bird Island shore party. Minor surgery ie opening the abscess in AB Edward's hand. Usual restful day spent reading and dreaming mostly! Watched the film at night, although I sometimes think that three films a week is too much.

Saturday, 4th March – Moved in alongside this morning. The beach must shelve very steeply because we are in 10 fathoms and only then yards or so from the beach. Went

for a walk up to Hope Point and saw Shackleton's memorial. We then walked round to Grytviken and over the foul smelling 'plan'. Attended the Captain's cocktail party in the evening and finished up slightly the worse for wear.

Saturday, 11th March – Steamed all last night and continued the line of soundings this morning. No improvement in the weather and we anchored in Right Whale Bay around 1215. I did a bit of filing of my whale's tooth and then got changed for dinner. After dinner I played a couple of games of Cluedo and then sat chatting until 0015, when I turned in.

Thursday, 23rd March – The Chief Stoker requested to see me and when I examined him, it was clear that he had acute appendicitis. With some satisfaction I marched up to the bridge and informed the captain of the situation and what was needed. We then steamed at the amazing speed of 15 knots(!) to Leith, having alerted the hospital. We got there about 1900 and I took the casualty ashore. The operating theatre was all prepared and we got the patient anaesthetised with ether (albeit with some difficulty on the part of the anaesthetist) and I prepared to be the surgeon. My previous experience was limited ... and fairly straightforward. Unfortunately, this one was anything but straightforward which, combined with the increasing difficulties for the anaesthetist, made me decide that I should hand over to a more experienced surgeon and resume my normal role as anaesthetist!

Monday, 27th March – Another 'dash' day. This time to Elsehul to pick up the crew of *Fantome*, which was wrecked in Bird Sound this morning. Fortunately, no casualties, apart from the boat. Chief Stoker progressing satisfactorily in hospital.

Thursday, 6th April – Arrived in King Edward Cove early this morning and anchored off the jetty. A distinct drop in temperature and the whole place just seems to be waiting for winter to hit it. Occasional wisps of smoke drift up from the normally belching chimneys of the whaling station at Grytviken. From the ship, even the 'plan' looks clean! ... One feels that snow is literally just round the corner. Let us hope that the weather holds long enough for us to get our two camp parties back on board without any delays. I went ashore – perhaps for the last time ever in South Georgia – to buy stamps at the Post Office. There really is a kind of magnetism about the island that may well draw me back some day. In all its moods there is something aloof and mystical about it and its animal population. It has certainly given me an experience to remember and treasure.

Fanning Isle

Shackleton's poem (see Summer 2020 issue) seemed an analogue for the 'lock-down' which made us all more thoughtful. In real isolation at 29 on an equatorial atoll in the Central Pacific, the author understood the metaphor. On his solitary return from the Discovery Expedition in February 1903 his ship put in briefly at Fanning Island (now Tabuaeran).

The island was the 'work of a tiny insect,' but a principal landing station of the British Pacific Cable, the 'All Red Line' telegraph system from Canada to Australia, laid 8000 miles on the sea floor. This 'pulsing heart of the ocean' at the atoll, linking nations and hemispheres (as Shackleton said), seemed – in its mysterious unseen way – a parallel to the internet of virtual contacts and information from which we now take comfort (and dismay), sitting alone at our computer screens. The Pacific Cable system was new, initiated the year before Shackleton's visit, and state-of-the-art for its day. He subtitled the poem A Link in the All-British Cable.

The context of 'Fanning Isle' is interesting: Scott sent Shackleton home from *Discovery*, ostensibly on the grounds of health, after the heroic Southern Journey. The relief ship *Morning* took him to New Zealand, and he then crossed the Pacific from Auckland to San Francisco on *Oratava*, putting in at Fanning. One might imagine the sociable young explorer as a lonely passenger with hurt pride. He did not enjoy the company on board. In the biography *Shackleton* (1957) Fisher quotes his Discovery diary, describing the passengers on board as a 'pretty dull and uninteresting crowd' who only 'growl' and talk about themselves. The 'old Scotch Chap' in the smoking room was an 'unmitigated bore telling me about his various journeys and his health', and 'Yankees seem to predominate'.

Tabuaeran, with its lagoon, is 4 degrees north of the Equator, not far from Christmas Island. Edmund Fanning, Captain of the US ship *Betsy*, sighted it, uninhabited, in 1798. Whalers visited. It was annexed to Great Britain in 1888 from its proprietors, Messrs. Greig and Bignell; a Crown Colony from 1916, in 1939 it was incorporated in the Gilbert and Ellice Dependencies, familiar from boyhood stamp albums. In September 1914, there was the 'Fanning Raid', when a German light cruiser *Nürnberg*, on the way to mischief against British ships in South America, hoisted a French flag and put the cable station out of action with a landing force, smashing and blowing up equipment and cutting the cable. Communications were restored in two weeks. As Tabuaeran, the atoll gained independence in 1979, and is now in the Republic of Kiribati which can expect to be the first country to lose all its land territory to global warming, as the maximum elevation of the 32 atolls and one coral reef is about 10 feet above high tide.

Tabuaeran produced coconut oil, copra, guano, and abundant mother-of-pearl from the lagoon. Frigate birds



and stormy petrels hovered. An article in the Illustrated London News for 14 April 1906 (*image above*) described the 'rich vegetation which comes down in a picturesque fringe to the water's edge' and coral gardens. This is the Central Pacific, but what Shackleton saw must have been rather like the beaches in *South Pacific* (Rodgers and Hammerstein, 1958) without Mitzi Gaynor taking a shower.

'Fanning Isle' is known to have been a favourite of Emily, Lady Shackleton. Shackleton reached home on 15 June 1903, and married her on 9 April 1904. The manuscript may survive. In the Sydney Morning Herald for 10 January 1931, it is reported that Shackleton gave it to a 24-year-old South Australian girl, Anna Florence Stirling (1879–1939), in August 1901 (must mean 1903). The MS had 'recently' come to light in Adelaide, in her possession. In 1910 she married Sydney Russell Booth, also an Australian, who became a lecturer at the University of Adelaide, like his wife's father, Sir Edward Charles Stirling CMG FRS FRCS (1848–1919), a distinguished Australian anthropologist and its first professor of physiology. (The manuscript might still be with Anna Florence Stirling's family in Adelaide: her children were ES Booth, of Stirling West, and Mrs RH Morrison, of Glenunga.)

Turning readers' minds upside down from torrid to frozen zone, one might say the ice currently appears to melt a little for us with some social rapprochement re-emerging. But the ship is still stogged. Shackleton wrote an article entitled *Adventure. A Message to Boys* a few months before leaving on *Endurance*. In it he describes his prescription for the qualities of a Polar explorer and for young men to go through the world successfully in daily life: Optimism; Patience; Idealism, and Courage. FORTITUDINE VINCIMUS.

Dr Jan Piggott

2020 Newsletter: discussions and disagreements!

The 2020 Newsletter was a smaller than usual publication (thanks to you-know-what) but it was evidently read with more close attention than is the norm – and as a result inspired several comments and observations!

Guy Story's discovery of an 'unknown' photo of Shackleton in Port Stanley was questioned by Robert Burton: 'About 20 years ago I obtained a scan of a print held by Geoff Selley. It is clearly not in such good condition but on the reverse is written Photo taken of Sir Ernest Shackleton the day after he landed in the Falklands by Mr Johansen whose boots Sir E is wearing. There are several such photos to be found, most in an album held in the Jane Cameron National Archives in Stanley.'

The *James Caird* replica article also attracted attention, including from our President who reminds us that several members of the Endurance Expedition were not awarded

Polar medals, not just McNeish. We will never know exactly why this decision was made.

We do know that there are several more JC replicas than those listed in the 2020 Newsletter. Seb Coulthard (one of the members of Tim Jarvis's Epic Expedition) has a magnificent one in his garden, and James Norton has created a beautifully detailed Caird model complete with crates, supplies and sleeping bags (Page 9).

Finally, Jim McAdam draws attention to an error in his piece on the Stanley Museum: 'I said that James Clark Ross visited the Falklands in 1838. This is, of course, incorrect. His expedition and great voyage only departed from the UK for the Antarctic in 1839 and overwintered in Stanley in 1842. A historian friend has kindly (and gently) pointed out the error.'

The James Caird Enigma

Franki James, from New Zealand, raised the on-going question of whether the *James Caird* was an English boat or a Kiwi.

Franki's claim is that in Dargaville, New Zealand, local legend has always claimed the *James Caird* as its own and that Eric Thomson, the Dargaville boatbuilder, had built six boats for Shackleton's expeditions and was convinced that the *James Caird* was one of his own. In addition, a boat built in Dargaville would have been made of kauri (a native New Zealand timber) but that a request some years ago to take samples of the *Caird*'s wood and have them tested was turned down.

Calista Lucy, Keeper of the Archive at Dulwich College and therefore responsible for the *Caird*, explains that the Dulwich College Archive have received several requests for samples of the *James Caird*'s timbers. As they are

responsible for preserving her for future generations, they have rejected all such requests.

Calista adds: 'There is absolutely no doubt that the *James Caird* was built to Worsley's directions by W J Leslie in Poplar, London. When *Polaris* arrived in England to be fitted for the Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition and renamed *Endurance*, she only had three lifeboats. Seb Coulthard, who sailed in the Shackleton Epic Expedition and has built a *Caird* replica, has done an enormous amount of research on the subject. After the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912 there was a Board of Trade enquiry which reported in January 1914. The report stipulated new ratios for crew to lifeboats. So the expedition and *Endurance* needed another lifeboat to be compliant which is why the *James Caird* was commissioned and built in England.'

Thoughts on Covid-19

Relating the current pandemic to personal direct or indirect experience of Antarctica could help us:

'Birds were flying from continent to continent long before we were. They reached the coldest place on Earth, Antarctica, long before we did. They can survive in the hottest of deserts. Some can remain on the wing for years at a time. They can girdle the globe. Now, we have taken over the earth and the sea and the sky, but with skill and care and knowledge, we can ensure that there is still a place on Earth for birds in all their beauty and variety – if we want to ... And surely, we should.'

David Attenborough

They thought of home, naturally, but there was no burning desire to be in civilization for its own sake. Worsley recorded: 'Waking on a fine morning I feel a great longing

for the smell of dewy wet grass and flowers of a spring morning in New Zealand or England. One has very few other longings for civilization—good bread and butter, Munich beer, Coromandel rock oysters, apple pie and Devonshire cream are pleasant reminiscences rather than longings.'

Alfred Lansing, *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*

No person who has not spent a period of his life in those 'stark and sullen solitudes, that sentinel, the Pole' will understand fully what trees and flowers, sun-flecked turf and running streams mean to the soul of a man.

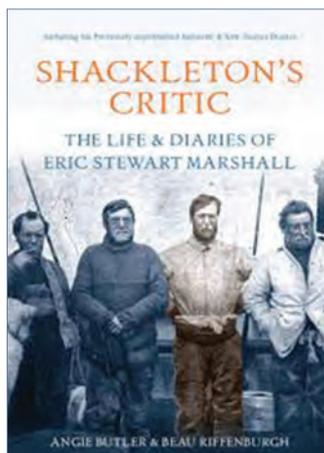
Ernest Shackleton

Need to put footstep of courage into stirrup of patience.

Ernest Shackleton

Roger Slade. JCS Committee member

Shackleton's Critic – the life and diaries of Eric Marshall



It was all of eight years ago that I launched into the research of Eric Stewart Marshall. Very little was known about the man, who, along with Shackleton, Frank Wild and Jameson Adams struggled to 88°23'S, 97 miles from the South Pole on the British Antarctic (Nimrod) Expedition.

Wracked with hunger, cold and exhaustion the men turned for home on

the 9th January, 1909. If it hadn't been for Marshall's heroics the return haul would have been little more than death march.

I was intrigued by Marshall's character, by his constant carping, his vicious vitriol aimed at Shackleton and by one of Wild's more polite assessments, that he was a 'grubscoffing useless beggar.' And I was especially intrigued that no-one had written a book on him. If I was planning to, there would be someone else with a similar idea. How right I was!

Marshall was the cartographer and doctor on the expedition and the first man to perform an operation in Antarctica when he removed Aeneas Mackintosh's eye that had been lacerated by a swinging gantry hook.

Soon after the Nimrod Expedition Marshall – on the suggestion of Shackleton – joined an expedition to Dutch New Guinea, 1909-1911. It was due to his strength and resourcefulness that he was one of the few survivors. His diary of the fateful expedition is published for the first

time and included in the book, as is his diary of the Southern Journey.

Marshall was undoubtedly his own worst enemy and was an unpopular man amongst many of his comrades. He judged, he criticised and by the end, one rift followed on the heels of another. Yet he had some excellent qualities including an exceptional war record proven both in Ypres and the Somme. He was ahead of his time in understanding the causes of scurvy and many other nutritional diseases.

As regards writing his story, I held several ace cards in my hand – one of which was discovering his nephew, Edward Marshall, the only son of the youngest of the four Marshall brothers. And I had the pleasure of bringing him to a James Caird Dinner! I also spent time in America with Erica Dawn, Marshall's estranged nonagenarian daughter, and I was lent – and allowed to publish – Marshall's unique Southern Journey diary thanks to Dr Mike Wain. I then discovered that the eminent Polar historian Beau Riffenburgh was also writing a biography of Marshall but his project was on hold due to diary copyright issues.

Although I had unearthed hitherto unknown gems about Marshall, I began to realise that my story needed to be seen and read within a far better historical structure: co-authorship was the perfect answer.

The President of the James Caird Society has read the book from cover to cover; she and I are still good friends!

To buy the book visit www.shackletonscritic.co.uk
£25.00, 359 pages with separate maps in a pocket

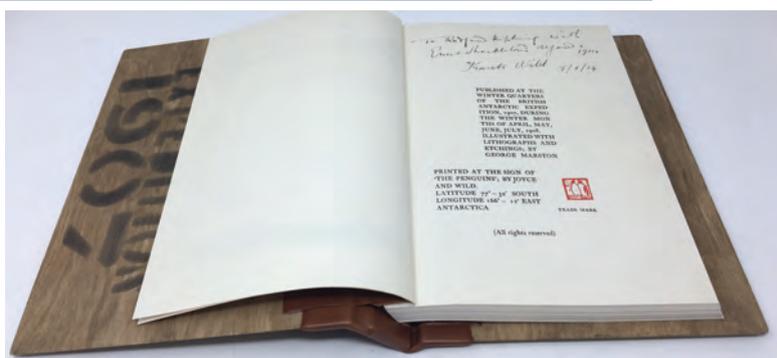
Angie Butler is the co-founder of Ice Tracks Expeditions and author of The Quest for Frank Wild

A new Aurora Australis

To commemorate the 2022 Centenary marking 100 years since Shackleton's death, the Folio Society are publishing in November 2021 a limited edition facsimile of the *Aurora Australis*. This exclusive new publication is based on the copy held in the Dulwich College Archive and the accompanying commentary is printed letterpress and has been written by Dr Jan Piggott, former Keeper of that Archive, curator of the 2000 Shackleton Antarctic and Endurance Exhibition – and member of the James Caird Society.

The original was printed and bound in the Antarctic during the Nimrod Expedition, in their Winter Quarters, the hut at Cape Royds on Ross Island, during the 'polar night' of 1908, between April and July. 'Sunless months,' wrote Shackleton, 'lit only by vagrant moon and elusive Aurora.'

Every effort has been made to stay faithful to the original, with a binding of leather and Venesta board (stencilled with the 'petit pois' design to match the Dulwich College copy), and the pages threaded by hand



on to twine and held in place by leather. It will be printed and bound in England, and presented in a linen-covered box blocked in leather with the Nimrod Expedition's 'Printed at the Sign of the Penguins' motif.

As a further commemoration, the Folio Society will also be publishing a slip-cased set of Shackleton's works: *The Heart of the Antarctic* (in two volumes) and *South*, fully illustrated with the original photographs and introduced by JCS President Alexandra Shackleton.

€3.1m for Athy museum redevelopment



An artist's impression of the museum redevelopment

Athy is a pleasant market town with a population of 10,000, situated on the River Barrow in County Kildare about 40 miles south of Dublin. It is the nearest large town to Kilkea House where Ernest Shackleton was born on 15 February 1874. Following the formation of the James Caird Society in 1994 and an increased interest worldwide in the life and times of Antarctic explorers, the Shackleton Autumn School was started in 2001. Every October a weekend of lectures takes place in the Athy Heritage Centre which in turn includes a permanent exhibition devoted to the memory and exploits of Sir Ernest Shackleton.

The exhibition is housed in the former Market House which used to house a thriving butter market in the early 20th century. By the 1970s it had become the fire station, but in 1985 local solicitor Frank Taaffe formed the Athy Museum Society and set up a small local museum in Market House sharing the ground floor with the council offices and two fire engines!

After it became apparent that the Shackleton connection was the main attraction, Athy was declared a Heritage Town and in 1995 a grant of £350,000 was received from the Irish Tourist Board for the expansion of the museum across the entire ground floor. In addition a donation of £50,000 from a local benefactor enabled the museum to purchase Shackleton memorabilia from Christies and other London auction houses. The museum also acquired the scale model of *Endurance* used in the Channel 4 film starring Kenneth Branagh.

Ambitious plans are now in progress for a major redevelopment of the Shackleton Museum – to be

undertaken by Kildare County Council in conjunction with the newly formed Athy Heritage Company. The overall cost is estimated at €3.8m, with €3.1m already committed by the Irish Government and Kildare County Council. The Heritage Company will also announce details of a major fund-raising initiative later this year with construction expected to commence in 2022 and opening planned for summer 2023.

An architect-led design team (including a conservation architect and an interpretative and exhibition design consultant) is currently progressing the detailed design of the project. The new museum will be on three levels and the whole back of the hall will be opened up by an angled glass 'iceberg' facade which visitors pass through on their way up and down the floors. The ground floor will include a reception area, café and 1920s-style cinema. The second floor will be devoted to Shackleton's expeditions and will feature a replica of the *James Caird* constructed by Seb Coulthard. The actual cabin from *Quest* in which Ernest Shackleton died on 5 January 1922 at the age of 47 will take pride of place on the third floor.

The Minister of State for Local Government and Heritage, Michael Noonan, recently inspected the project. 'It is an exciting time for Athy, building on the tremendous success of the annual Shackleton Autumn School which is proof of the international draw of the Shackleton legacy,' he remarked. 'The Shackleton story is not told to the extent it deserves. It has huge potential to regenerate the entire town and I'm really looking forward to watching it evolve.'

What the Society does

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

The James Caird Society was established in 1994 and is a registered charity. It is the only institution that exists to preserve the memory, honour the remarkable feats of discovery in the Antarctic and commend the outstanding qualities of leadership associated with the name of Sir Ernest Shackleton, KCVO (1874-1922), especially during the ill-fated but glorious Endurance Expedition.

How Shackleton maintained his men's morale while stranded for months on the ice and when there seemed no hope of rescue, eventually bringing all of them home safe and sound, is now seen as an achievement unique in the history of exploration.

The Society's main purpose relates to honouring that achievement and preserving the memory of Sir Ernest's unique qualities of leadership. A vital part of the Society's role also includes supporting projects, usually expeditions, which emulate the spirit of Shackleton and as such are deemed to have put Shackleton's Leadership into Action...

Membership application form

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

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

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Profession

Telephone

Email

Shackleton connection (if any)

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

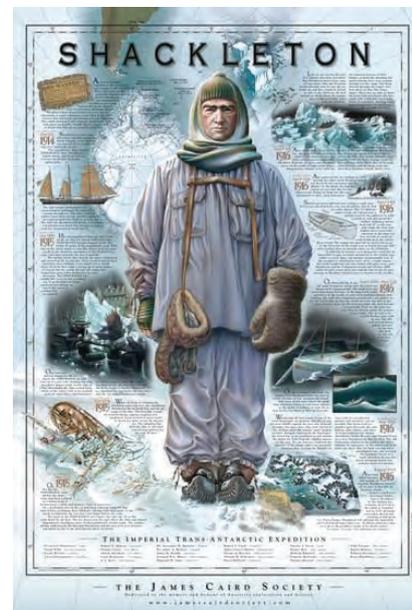
UK taxpayers are urged to take advantage of Gift Aid which allows the Society tax relief on subscription. A Gift Aid Declaration Form is available on the website.

Shackleton: The Poster

Our beautiful poster, created by American artist, designer and illustrator John Hyatt, an ardent admirer of Sir Ernest's achievements, is still available to buy. The poster is A2 size (24" x 16" / 610mm x 407mm) and is extremely informative, as well as being an eye-catching work of art: either way it makes a perfect present – for yourself or someone else.

All proceeds from sales will go towards our charitable work – which is to support projects, usually expeditions, which emulate the spirit of Shackleton. Updates from many of these projects appear in this issue.

To order a poster, please contact Tony Parker at membership@jamescairdsociety.com with your name and full postal address. We are asking for a minimum donation of £15 please to cover production costs, plus Postage and Packaging of £5.00 (UK) or £9.00 (overseas).



The James Caird Society 2021

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 Chairman: Rear Admiral Nick Lambert
 Vice Chairman: John Bardell
 Hon Secretary: Dr Andy Kinniburgh
 Hon Treasurer: Tony Parker
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