



SUPPORTING POLAR
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POLAR BYTES

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Loyal readers since 1996



M/V Ortelius, Rode Oy, in Scorseby Sound, Greenland © Sean G Traynor

Our AGM returns

We are delighted to be holding a long overdue Friends AGM on 29 October at SPRI.

The event will include a farewell to Professor Julian Dowdeswell on his retirement from the Institute. Julian has done tremendous work as the Director of SPRI for more than 20 years and this will be our chance to say thank you for his great support and encouragement for the Friends.

All are welcome to the AGM for a fascinating afternoon which will include a complimentary glass of wine. No tickets and no need to book, we'd be delighted to see you.

Would you like to join the FoSPRI committee?

If yes, please send back the nomination form enclosed.

AGENDA

15:30	Doors open
16:00 - 16:45	AGM - members only
16:45	Drinks reception (all are welcome rest of the day)
17:15 - 18:15	Julian's talk "A Polar Journey" and Q&A
18:15	Farewell to Julian
18:30	Close

Images of Julian from Polar Bytes
over the last few years



Thank you to Argos Froyanes for their generous sponsorship



Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter



Dear Friends,

I hope you have had an excellent summer and enjoyed being able to be outside during the weeks of glorious sunny weather.

At the end of the summer, a group of 26 Friends sailed on our 2022 expedition voyage to Spitsbergen and north-east Greenland. We ventured to the far north onboard the ice strengthened passenger vessel M/V Ortelius, operated by Oceanwide Expeditions, between 27 August to 9 September. It was a fantastic journey, with calm seas and beautiful weather. Sailing through the remote and dramatic fjords of Scoresby Sound in east Greenland was a wonderful highlight, as was seeing the shimmering curtains of the Northern Lights on several nights. We were fortunate to see a wide variety of wildlife, including polar bear, humpback and fin whales, Arctic fox and hares, Svalbard reindeer, and were chased off our final landing site by an inquisitive musk ox! We were guided by an excellent Expedition team from Oceanwide Expeditions led by Jan Belgers, and enjoyed fascinating lectures by Professor Julian Dowdeswell, and his wife Evelyn, on the geology and glaciology of the area. We also held a charity auction at the end of the voyage, which raised £3300 for the SPRI Centenary Campaign. Thank you to all the Friends who participated in the voyage. It was great to share such an amazing adventure with you all!

Looking forward, we will end the year with two important events. On 29 October we will be holding the Friends AGM at SPRI and say farewell to Professor Julian Dowdeswell on his retirement from the Institute. This will be our chance to say thank you to Julian for his tremendous work as the Director of SPRI, and for his great support and encouragement for the Friends, over more than 20 years. I hope many of you will attend for what will be a very special occasion. The final event of the year will be the SPRI Centenary Gala Dinner to be held at Robinson

College, Cambridge on 5 November. I know many of the Friends will be attending and coming from near and far, including several from the USA.

Our fund raising for the SPRI Centenary Campaign continues. The latest financial summary, dated end August 2022, shows that we have now raised the grand total of £217,000. Many thanks to Andrew Sheaf for a further contribution of £1000 to the campaign. To this total we need to add the £11,500 raised by the Friends Arctic voyage 2022. We are now in touching distance of our target of £250,000 to endow a studentship at SPRI. I'm confident that we will receive further donations, both large and small, in the next few weeks, and hope to broadcast we have finally reached our target by the end of 2022!

Finally, I'm pleased to tell you our next Friends voyage to Antarctica in early 2024 is now being advertised by our travel partners, Swoop Travel, on their website. Please click on: www.swoop-antarctica.com/cruises/circle/spri. The voyage will take place between 29 February – 14 March 2024 onboard the M/S Seaventure operated by Polar Latitudes. Please book early to reserve your berths as demand will be high. We have several Friends who have already booked and paid for their cabins.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the Friends AGM, and the SPRI Centenary Gala Dinner, in the next few weeks, and catching up in person with as many of you as possible.

My best wishes to you all,

John Shears, Chairman of the Friends of SPRI

Fancy joining us on our next adventure?



FRIENDS OF SPRI BESPOKE VOYAGE | 29TH FEBRUARY - 14TH MARCH 2024

Designed especially for the Friends of SPRI, our voyage will plunge far south to cross the little-visited Antarctic Circle.

Special guests accompanying you onboard include our Chairman Dr John Shears, Professor Julian Dowdeswell, polar artist Dafila Scott, and Falcon Scott along with an expert team of naturalist guides.

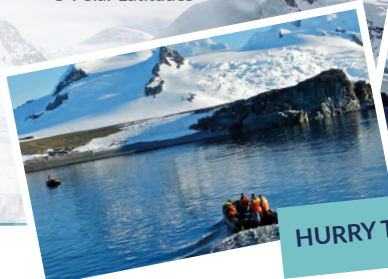
IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR PARTNERS



The voyage will help raise funds for Friends of SPRI to support and protect the unique work, research and historic collections of the Scott Polar Research Institute.

To find out more visit: www.swoop-antarctica.com/cruises/circle/spri or telephone: +44 117 369 0696

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HURRY TO RESERVE YOUR CABIN



VOYAGE Gallery

Our trip in September was a huge success.
Here are a few images from the voyage.



Images: Segelsallskapet (Yacht club) Fjord, Greenland and Iceberg Graveyard, Rode Oy, in Scoreby Sound, Greenland © Sean G Traynor



From the Institute

A few words from Interim Director
Neil Arnold email: nsa12@cam.ac.uk

The Institute is now firmly warming up for the beginning of the new academic year. We have 8 new students arriving taking the M.Phil. in Polar Studies, and 4 new Ph.D. students, across both the physical and social sciences of the polar regions. We're also looking forward to welcoming the undergraduate students taking the Geography Tripos who have chosen to take the second and third year optional papers taught by SPRI staff. Elsewhere in the Institute, the exhibition by Sarah Airriess showcasing her amazing work transforming 'The Worst Journey in the World' by Apsley Cherry-Garrard into a graphic novel is getting a lot of attention from both younger and older visitors.

We are also finalising the preparations for the upcoming Centenary Gala Dinner on November 5th, which will be an opportunity to celebrate (albeit belatedly) the 100th anniversary of the Institute, and along with his talk planned for the Friends' AGM on the 29th of October, to say thank you to Julian Dowdeswell for his near 20 years as SPRI Director.

SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH A GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

With Christmas on the way, why not gift a Friends Membership to your friends and family. A unique and completely different surprise. Please email Celene for more information on our gift package.



A note from the Executive Secretary

Dear Friends

It has been a privilege and an honour to have worked so closely with Julian for so many years. Always embracing the Friends with his constant support and enthusiasm, we shall really miss his presence. I really look forward to seeing many of you join us in raising a glass to Julian at our AGM event.

Would you like to join the FoSPRI committee?

If yes, please send back the nomination form enclosed.

NEW FRIENDS - A very warm welcome is extended to all new members.

Best wishes Celene

Friends Secretary – Celene Pickard

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NEW EVIDENCE for possible liquid water beneath the south polar ice cap of Mars

An international team of researchers, led by Neil Arnold at SPRI, has revealed new evidence for the possible existence of liquid water beneath the south polar ice cap of Mars.

The team, including researchers from the University of Sheffield, the University of Nantes, University College, Dublin, and the Open University used spacecraft laser-altimeter measurements of the shape of the upper surface of the ice cap to identify subtle patterns in its height.

Their results agree with earlier ice-penetrating radar measurements that were originally interpreted to show a potential area of liquid water beneath the ice. There has been debate over the liquid water interpretation from the radar data alone, with some studies suggesting the radar signal is not due to liquid water.

The results, reported in the journal Nature Astronomy, provide the first independent line of evidence, using data other than radar, that there is liquid water beneath Mars' south polar ice cap.

Read more, visit: www.cam.ac.uk/stories/liquid-water-mars

DIGITAL OR PRINT?

We would like to ask all members whether they would like to receive a digital version of Polar Bytes in order to save costs and paper? Please email Celene at friends@spri.cam.ac.uk if you would like to change to a digital only version in the New Year.

Next year we shall revert to 2 printed copies and 2 digital versions per year. The next edition in January will be a digital version.



FOOTSTEPS IN THE SNOW by John Dudeney

Footsteps in the Snow autobiography allows the reader to feel the wonder, awe, excitement and passion for Antarctica which drove John Dudeney throughout his career, and which is as fresh today as it was on his first encounter half a century ago.

Now available to pre-order.



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