






SUPPORTING POLAR
SCIENCE AND HERITAGE

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POLAR BYTES

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Loyal readers since 1996



Photo courtesy of Ice Tracks

100 Years on – Expedition Dinner Spectacular

Written by Chairman
Nick Lambert

On the 27th September 2014, the very same day that Sir Ernest Shackleton, a hundred years earlier left for Buenos Aires to meet the Endurance, the Friends of SPRI held a black tie dinner at the spectacular Trinity House, home of the General Lighthouse Authority, overlooking the lights of Tower Bridge.



\$52,000 from Debra Taylor of One Ocean Expeditions to Nick Lambert

The number of thank you letters written following the dinner, some 25 in all, graphically illustrates the ambition of the event and the generosity of our many sponsors -

from the Deputy Master of Trinity House in providing the venue through to the remarkable table sculptures of the great explorer which raised nearly £2,000 made by James Butler, Royal Academician. Tim Jarvis, the Australian explorer who re-enacted Shackleton's great boat journey travelled all the way from Oz to speak to us with consummate professionalism, whilst Matthew Haley of Bonhams brought panache to our auction raising nearly £5,000 in the process.

Finally, the diners were stunned by Debra Taylor's presentation of a \$52,000 cheque on behalf of One Ocean Expeditions reflecting the money raised by the forthcoming Shackleton Centenary Voyage this coming Austral Summer.

See inside for more details.

EXCLUSIVE FoSPRI OFFER

For a limited period, the Royal Academy of Arts is delighted to offer membership to the Academicians' Room, a new social space for artists and art lovers to meet, eat, drink and debate – a haven in the heart of Mayfair.

By becoming a member you will meet like-minded people from the visual arts world and creative industries. It is located in the Keeper's House, and also includes a restaurant, bar, walled garden and an exciting programme of arts related events. The Keeper's House is open from 10am - 11.30pm from Monday to Saturday and from 10am - 6pm on Sundays. The annual subscription is £300 and the one off joining fee of £240 will be waived for the Friends of SPRI.

For more information, please contact Alexandra Banister on 020 7300 5606 or email: alexandra.banister@royalacademy.org.uk

The
Keeper's
House

Thank you to the Academicians' Room at the Royal Academy of Arts for their support of our recent event

www.keepershouse.org.uk



Welcome to our Autumn Polar Bytes newsletter

We are now firmly into the Shackleton Centenary and I think it's fair to claim that things have rarely been busier in the Friends' calendar.

The Friends of SPRI, continue to excel in raising funds to support our venerable Institute.

Julian Dowdeswell, the Institute's Director, and Heather Lane, the Librarian and Keeper of Collections, remarked on the significance of our work and expressed their gratitude on behalf of the Institute.

Elsewhere Friends' activity continues apace. Preparations for the Centenary Voyage are reaching fever pitch as are arrangements for the AGM on 8 November in Cambridge; the associated lecture date being a sell-out that we hope will be a model for future events.

Unfortunately I also have to report the sad news that Dick Laws passed away. A highly regarded Polar expert, Dick was a previous Director of BAS and one of our longest standing Friends. At 88 years of age he had an amazing run but that doesn't reduce the impact of his departure and loss.

These activities and events don't happen in a vacuum. I'm indebted to the efforts of the Friends committee and numerous other hard working people who make things happen.

Hoping to see you all at the AGM!

Nick Lambert, Chairman

From the Institute



A few words from Director
Julian Dowdeswell
Email: director@spri.cam.ac.uk

Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic or Endurance expedition left England in August 1914.

One hundred years on, the Institute has already modified its museum displays to show more of our Shackleton collection together with touch-screen information on the expedition and its members. From October we will have a replica of the 7m long James Caird, which Trevor Potts built and sailed with three colleagues from Elephant Island to South Georgia in 1993-94, in place outside the Institute. This will enhance the 'foyer' entrance to the Institute, and to have the boat come during the Shackleton centenary is particularly timely.

I would like to thank Trevor Potts for his generosity, Stephen Scott-Fawcett for his work on bringing the move to completion, and Ginny and Alastair Woodrow for their support of the project.

The new academic year begins in October and we welcome a new group of doctoral



The Sir Ernest Shackleton, with Trevor Potts – at the Scott Polar Research Institute

and masters degree students to the Institute. Cambridge undergraduates will come to the Institute's lecture theatre as parts of second and third year Geography courses taught by senior academic staff at SPRI on both science and social-science topics relating to the polar regions. Our doctoral students and post-doctoral research staff are also involved in the small-group teaching, or supervision, of the undergraduates, so the Institute receives quite an influx of students at this time of year. Many students make use of the excellent resources of our Polar Library, and induction sessions are run by our library staff.

News from the Heritage Collections



Written by the Librarian and Keeper of Collections,
Heather Lane Email: librarian@spri.cam.ac.uk



Major HLF award for SPRI's Shackleton Project.

We are delighted to announce that the Institute has been awarded

£500,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) from its £5 million funding programme, Collecting Cultures. SPRI is one of 23 museums, libraries and archives across the UK which will benefit and is the only organisation to be awarded the maximum grant.

The grant has been awarded for By Endurance We Conquer: the Shackleton Project, which will unite the Institute's Archive, Museum, Library and Picture Library in a targeted purchasing strategy designed to develop its collection of material relating to Sir Ernest Shackleton. It will strengthen all four departments through knowledge-sharing and collaborative planning, and dramatically

enhance our public engagement using new acquisitions and interpretation.

As a result of the enormous increase in public interest generated by the centenary celebrations of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic (Endurance) Expedition (1914-17) it is likely a large number of items relating to Shackleton's life and expeditions will either return to the market from private collections or become available for the first time. By Endurance We Conquer will enable us to seize this opportunity. We also anticipate that the added publicity may encourage owners of material from all four of Shackleton's expeditions to consider donating it to the collections to strengthen our research and displays, releasing further funding for detailed cataloguing and the educational aspects of the project.

Inset: Studio portrait of Shackleton. Photograph: Swaine. SPRI P99/40. *Background:* Endurance Diary, 21 November 1915. This was the day that the Endurance sank (MS_1537_3_7, Endurance-sinking)



Trinity House SHACKLETON CENTENARY DINNER

Behind the neo-classical facade of Trinity House are some of the most elegant and prestigious banqueting rooms in London. It was here among the impressive and imposing portraits of Henry VIII and King George V that the friends held a truly special evening and shared the same menu as the magnificent farewell dinner given by the London Devonian Association for Shackleton in 1914.

Clockwise from left: On the night; Replica menu of the evening; Sculpture table centre piece; Sculptures in the workshop; Exclusive Centenary Voyage china; The Chairman Nick Lambert and Celene Pickard; The Hon. Alexandra Shackleton, Seb Coulthard and Dermot Murphy with the James Caird boat.

Every detail of the evening was an homage to the Endurance, from the wonderful Yelcho merlot, a wine for those who savour life, to the beautifully crafted calligraphy place names by Susan Llewelyn Elvidge, with their raised gold embossed crests standing proudly beside the vintage gold tasseled menus reminding us of a by-gone era.

Susan Rose thrilled the audience by standing on a piece of specially commissioned Centenary Voyage china to showcase the strength, quality and fine craftsmanship of English bone china. Shackleton would most certainly have approved! (and it's available to order!)

Amidst the elegance and fine surroundings nothing is better than the bond of those who come together to share a common interest and Carolina Mantello and Angie Butler from Ice Tracks embodied this in the warmth of their welcome to the many descendants, passengers and guests on the night.



A big thank you to Rolf Williams for taking the photographs during the night



Artist in Residence – Darren Rees on board HMS PROTECTOR

The Friends' chosen Artist in Residence travels south each year with the Royal Navy on board HMS PROTECTOR for a 3-4 weeks placement during the Antarctic Summer during which they create extraordinary bodies of artwork. We are pleased to announce that our Artist in Residence for 2014/2015 will be – Darren Rees.

Darren Rees is an artist and naturalist with nearly thirty years' experience of sharing the wonder of the natural world. Since his acclaimed solo book *Bird Impressions* his paintings have attracted many national awards, particularly his recent body of work from the High Arctic.

He was born in Hampshire in 1961. Darren uses a variety of media, most commonly watercolour in the field, and acrylic and oil paint for larger landscapes and studio works. Darren's work relates to his encounters with the natural world – he has travelled extensively, from the Amazon to the Arctic and many points between.

Darren says he is truly thrilled and honoured to be given the opportunity by the SPRI to experience the grand landscapes and abundance of life at the opposite end of the world.

The Friends will also be able to welcome and congratulate Darren when he joins us for the AGM.



Left: Darren Rees; Above: Arctic Polar Bear; Blue Ice & Bears (acrylic on canvas).



FoSPRI dates for the diary

Please visit: www.spri.cam.ac.uk/friends/events for further details

8 NOVEMBER 2014

SHACKLETON'S LEGACY AFTERNOON SESSION

Tickets to our Shackleton Legacy Day are now sold out!

But why not come along to the afternoon session for just £5 on the door!

This session will be held in the Bristol-Myers Squibb Lecture Theatre in the Chemistry Dept (opp. SPRI Car Park) from 2.00pm.

ONLY £5!

We hope to see you there

General

To book any of the events below please email: friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk

EVENT	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST:
Shackleton's Legacy – a joint event with South Georgia Association SOLD OUT – afternoon session still available for £5 (see advert)	Saturday 8 November	SOLD OUT 2.00pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre	£25
Friends of SPRI AGM	Saturday 8 November	5:15pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre	FREE
Shackleton Centenary Voyage	21 Nov to 10 Dec	–	Antarctica	See website
Norwegian Fjords – Oslo to Tromsø	6 to 13 July 2015	–	Oslo to Tromsø	See website
– Extension to Spitsbergen Inc entrance to Fram museum and dinner on the Fram	13 to 22 July 2015	–	Spitsbergen	See website

Further information on the lectures is available at www.spri.cam.ac.uk/friends/events/lectures/

Museum events

To book any of the events below please email: museumevents@spri.cam.ac.uk

EVENT	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST:
The Polar Muse A collaboration between The Polar Museum, PN Review and eight of Cambridge's most exciting and innovative poets.	24 September – 20 December	10:00am – 4:00pm	THE POLAR MUSEUM	FREE
The thing is...Exhibition	24 September – 20 December	10:00am – 4:00pm		FREE
Lunchtime Talk Series Enjoy a variety of free lunchtime talks relating to themes from our current exhibitions.	Tuesday 28 October, 4 November	2:00pm – 2:30pm		FREE, no booking required. Meet in the museum entrance hall
In Conversation with a Museum: The Polar Muse Poetry Reading	Tuesday 4 November	6:00pm – 7:30pm		FREE, booking required

Further information on the Museum events and exhibitions visit www.spri.cam.ac.uk/museum/

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Key

- Exhibition
- Study
- Dinner
- Student
- Lecture
- Special
- Meeting



A note from the Executive Secretary

Any enquiries about membership (including subscription rates and renewals) should be sent to Celene Pickard, email: friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk

NEW FRIENDS – Membership currently stands at 608. A very warm welcome is extended to all new members.

PASSING FRIENDS – We are sad to note the passing of Dr Richard Hudson and Dr Richard Laws, who joined the Friends 1st January 1953. (See the Chair's note)

KEEP US UP-TO-DATE
May we ask you to please keep us informed of any changes to your postal or email addresses.

HOW TO CONTACT US?

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Scott Polar Research Institute
Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER
England



THANKS FOR YOUR FEEDBACK FRIENDS

Thanks to Ian Lovegrove who suggested hyperlinks in a new style electronic version of the newsletter which we have implemented.

Also to Andrew Gasson, Mike Bullock, Stephen Palmer and Jutta Raftery for their kind feedback on Polar Bytes.



Edited by Heather Lane, Celene Pickard and Leona Gaine Murphy.
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