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POLAR BYTES

ISSUE 078 / WINTER 2016

Loyal readers since 1996



Photo © Caro Mantella

Westminster Abbey Service

Written by Chairman Nick Lambert

As a Friend of the Scott Polar Research Institute you and your guests are invited to attend a unique service to commemorate the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

Join dignitaries and descendants at 'The Centenary Service of Thanksgiving' being held at Westminster Abbey on Friday, 20 May 2016 at 12am to honour the achievements, courage and endurance of Sir Ernest Shackleton CVO and his men and to remember those who lost their lives.

On the morning of the 20th May 1916, after an extraordinary journey of survival aboard the James Caird, and having climbed across the uncharted mountains of South Georgia, Sir Ernest Shackleton, Tom Crean and

Frank Worsley staggered into the whaling station at Stromness, on South Georgia. Their news was grim: Endurance had been crushed and sunk, and twenty-two of their companions were marooned on Elephant Island but at last the world knew what had happened to Shackleton's expedition and his men could be rescued. However, whilst the men on Elephant Island were all saved, the Ross Sea Party, laying supply depots, was not so fortunate with Lieutenant Mackintosh R.N.R., V.G. Hayward and The Rev. A.P. Spencer-Smith B.A losing their lives.

For how to reserve your free tickets for this event please see the back page. All are welcome to attend.



© Photo by Dan Kitwood

You could be a winner!

The Royal Mail have just released their special issue stamps for the Shackleton Centenary featuring images made by Frank Hurley held at SPRI and the RGS.



© Royal Mail

To celebrate our 20th Anniversary of Polar Bytes we are giving away **20 Shackleton Stamp Presentation Packs** (containing all 8 stamps) inside copies of the Winter Issue including the online issue. Check your copy or email to see if you are a surprise winner!

If you are not a winner and would still like Shackleton stamps you can order from the Royal Mail website or your local post office. Don't miss out.

For terms and conditions visit www.spri.cam.ac.uk/friends

Thank you to Countryside Ski & Climb for their generous sponsorship
www.countryside.co.uk





Welcome to our Winter Polar Bytes newsletter

A very warm welcome to this 20th anniversary edition of Polar Bytes occurring most appropriately in this Shackleton Centenary year and a very sincere thank you to you, our readers, who have so stalwartly supported us over the past two decades.

There is much to be done this year in addition to the conventional FoSPRI annual activity programme, not least the Shackleton Centenary Service at Westminster Abbey in the summer for which you will find ticket reservation details in this edition. Take a trip down memory lane, reliving the ponderings of PB over the past 20 years. To that end we would love to share your reminiscences - a quick email to gaine@yahoo.co.uk will suffice.

I'm also pleased to report that a new Bonhams sponsored Arctic Artist in Residence (AiR) programme in conjunction with One Ocean has been approved and so the search for an artist is now on! Meanwhile our recently selected Antarctic AiR, Lucy Carty, will shortly be on her way to join HMS PROTECTOR for her work period in February.

I'm sure that all our PB readers are only too aware of the intensely sad death of Henry Worsley near the end of his courageous Shackleton Solo Expedition last month. The FoSPRI Committee agreed we should include a tribute in a special supplement to Henry and his work in this 20th edition of Polar Bytes. It is indeed a reflective and salutary piece about a fine man – our thoughts, inadequate though they be, are with Joanna, Max and Alicia.

Nick Lambert, Chairman

From the Institute



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

I am based at Gateway Antarctica in Canterbury University, Christchurch, New Zealand for the next few weeks, supported by a Cambridge-Canterbury Fellowship. The fellowships are designed to build research and teaching links between the two universities, and I shall be giving seminars and interacting with Gateway Antarctica students during my visit. A further objective is for me to complete the editing of the 'Atlas of Submarine Glacial Landforms', and to finish my own contributions to the volume, which will appear later this year as a Geological Society of London Memoir.

The UK's ice-patrol vessel, HMS Protector, was in Lyttelton Harbour, close to Christchurch, for several days in late January, and I was delighted to be invited to a reception aboard. It was a pleasure to look round the vessel, to meet many of its officers and crew, and to thank them and the ship's Captain for hosting the latest Friends' artist in residence, who will be



The historic vessel Lyttelton and HMS Protector, the UK's ice-patrol vessel, in Lyttelton Harbour, New Zealand.

joining the ship in about a month. Moored next to HMS Protector was the historic vessel Lyttelton, which escorted Shackleton's Nimrod out of the harbour on its way to the Ross Sea in 1908.

We offer our condolences to the family of Henry Worsley on his untimely passing and whose many achievements we acknowledge in this issue.

News from the Heritage Collections



From the Archives Manager, Naomi Boneham and Antarctic Project Cataloguer Greta Bertram Email: archives@spri.cam.ac.uk



Our last update from the archive was all about the boss, this edition is all about our two new staff members.

Corinne Galloway spent the last five years working at the Houses of Parliament where she focused on public engagement and learning projects. She joins us to bring Shackleton's Antarctic to life for schools, colleges, and the wider public through a mix of events, education and outreach sessions, and online resources. She will be spending the next 18 months working on all things Shackleton.

Laura Ibbett - who joins the archives for the next four years - previous polar experience comes from working in the archives at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) before spending time with



Left to right: Corinne Galloway and Laura Ibbett

Cambridgeshire County Councils archive service. Laura studied Geology and Geographical Information Management and will be getting to know all about the Arctic over the coming months as she works on our nineteenth century collections.



THE FRIENDS OF SPRI

A SPECIAL EDITION
TRIBUTE TO OUR FRIEND
HENRY WORSLEY

*“He was the embodiment
of a true gentleman, courageous,
compassionate... He was a prince
among explorers...”*





A TRIBUTE TO OUR FRIEND HENRY WORSLEY

Alastair Edward Henry Worsley was born on October 4 1960 in London into a military family. His final tour before retirement from his 36 year army career, was as a Special Operations Officer based in the The Pentagon, liaising on behalf of the British Army with United States special operations forces.

He was the first person ever to have completed the two classic routes to the South Pole established by his Edwardian predecessors, Scott, Amundsen and Shackleton. His third expedition to the Antarctic, however, ended in tragedy.

Here in this special edition, the Friends of SPRI pay tribute to who he was as a person and a friend, behind all his extraordinary achievements.

So much has been said about Henry and no more better expressed than by the tributes of those who had the pleasure of his company for three weeks on our Shackleton Centenary voyage in 2014. Sadly, not all can be published here.

On meeting him first impressions were someone quite aloof, rather regimental, unquestionably a soldier. Yet, it wasn't long before his warmth shone through and some wise crack made you burst out laughing. He was a man of very many parts. He was never going to remain solely in the straight jacket of army life.

Whilst serving in the army, he was thrilled to corner a Scandinavian officer as the 'Amundsen voice' for a superb presentation he gave at the RGS two years ago. An event where there was standing room only. His passion for Antarctica and Shackleton led to a phenomenal eclectic collection of Shackletonia.

On one occasion in South Georgia, such was his admiration for the Boss, he took the opportunity to unfurl his sleeping bag and spend the night in the Whaler's cemetery next to his grave. One of the many stories he recounted with a twinkle in his eye.



Painting by Henry Worsley

Henry had an equal passion for art, visiting art galleries whenever he was back in

London. He recounted the story of bumping into David Hockney on the steps of the Royal Academy and as foolish as it felt, he stopped Hockney in his tracks and asked him for his autograph.

Henry rarely spoke of his own talents as an artist, embroiderer and poet. He loved painting and produced some beautiful works. Embroidery was another interest and he was immensely proud of his association with Finecellwork the charity that takes needlework into prisons.

His love and knowledge of the English countryside shone brightly. When he and his wife Joanna stayed a night on our farm shortly before leaving for Antarctica. He picked up a skull from my collection. 'Do you know what this is?' I had to admit I had no idea and had simply found it on a walk. 'It's a badger skull!' he exclaimed and continued to describe it in detail. He loved everything related to the natural world.

He loved the ice but equally soaked up the sun. Zig zagging across Greece with Joanna and joined by the children on a pre-expedition holiday gave them a rare opportunity to spend precious time together. He was never happier.

After two years of incessant expedition planning, he was ready to "*strive to the uttermost for his life's set prize*".*

Angie Butler

Director of Ice Tracks and Henry's Friend

* From Poem by Robert Browning which is quoted on Shackleton's Grave in South Georgia.

Unbeknownst to those at home in January 1916, Shackleton and his men were snowbound in Patience Camp drifting north ahead of a persistent blizzard to cross the Antarctic Circle on 21 January.

Unbeknownst to us at home a century later, Henry Worsley's audacious and brave Shackleton Solo Expedition to emulate Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition by crossing the Southern Continent alone and unaided, was drawing to an unexpectedly precipitate and sad close. His words explain all: 'The 71 days alone on the Antarctic with over 900 statute miles covered and a gradual grinding down of my physical endurance finally took their toll today, and it is with sadness that I report it is journey's end – so close to my goal'. Exhausted and dehydrated, he died in Punta Arenas on 24 January 2016 of bacterial peritonitis.

That Henry was and is held in high esteem is reflected in public statements and media coverage and a plethora of supporting messages from the Friends of SPRI, especially those that got to know him so well during the Shackleton Centenary Expedition Cruise.

This remarkable man not only raised funds for the Endeavour Fund, he also contributed to FoSPRI fundraising by working and lecturing on that Cruise. Words rarely effectively describe this sort of loss and sadness – suffice to say the Friends will long remember Henry Worsley alongside Charles Swithinbank and Bernard Stonehouse, the other great Polar figures we have lost in recent times.

Nick Lambert

Chairman of the Friends of SPRI

On 14th November 2008 Henry Worsley, Henry Adams and Will Gow set off from Shackleton's hut on the Ross Ice Shelf, Antarctica. Their mission? To recreate Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1908-1909 Nimrod Expedition, an expedition which got four tired hungry men to within 97nm of the South Pole - no one had got that far before.

Will and the two Henrys were able to reach the 97nm point one hundred years to the day that the original team had turned back. It was there that I along with four others - Matty McNair, David Cornell, Ronnie Gray and Andrew Ledger met them, before skiing the final 97nm and competing "unfinished family business". The expedition was a fundraiser for a charitable foundation that we set up, the Shackleton Foundation, which seeks out the next generation of social entrepreneurs, helping disadvantaged kids.

Henry approached the expedition obstacles with the same thoughtful diligence that others who knew him would instantly recognise. Making their own crampons whilst grappling with the Beardmore glacier was just one example of many where Henry's steadfast demeanour shone through. I know that I am not the only one who feels richer for knowing him, and yet poorer for knowing that we won't be able to call on his advice, his friendship, or his polar knowledge.

Tim Fright

Great-great-nephew of Frank Wild

(The only explorer to accompany Shackleton on all his missions)

“Ernest Shackleton... on the morning of January 9th 1909 said, he had shot his bolt. Well today, I have to inform you, with some sadness, that I too have shot my bolt... My summit is just out of reach”

Henry Worsley, 2016

For those 'Friends' on the Shackleton Centenary Voyage, we had the honour and the privilege to sail with Henry and get to know the spirit and the 'polar' passion of this truly remarkable gentleman. As I bade him farewell at his departure for his epic mission, his final words to me were, "On my return I will look forward to my visit to SPRI, to come and talk to the Friends!" Alas, it will never be!

Celene Pickard

Executive Secretary of the Friends of SPRI

I remember Henry's gentle, authoritative presence on the expedition.... a firm hand outstretched helping me into a zodiac... and how the support of his family was so essential in helping him through, with his son Max's words of encouragement written on his skis.

He was a man so very full of life and engagement with this planet of ours.

His legacy will continue to inspire the world...

Sue Cook

Oxfordshire, England



A Sonnet For Sir Ernest

Rest, Sir Ernest, rest beneath your star;
 All striving done and "life's set prize" attained:
 Not geographic goals, but greater far
 The pinnacles of leadership you gained.
 Rest, Sir Ernest, rest. God knows there's none
 Deserves it more: the long Antarctic night
 Now friend, not foe, with South's white warfare won
 And crew from death's dark door led back to light.
 How was it your endurance overcame
 The daily struggle just to keep alive
 Long past the point where death would bring no shame?
 Half starved and frozen, how did you survive,
 And how was no man lost while in your care?
 God knows. God knows it well. For He was there.

**Written and read by Henry Worsley
 in the Whalers Church in Grytviken on the
 Friends Shackleton Centenary Voyage 2014**

A quiet king and everybody's friend who lead by example
 and hovered at the back of our groups giving support and
 company, so the goals were achieved and enjoyed at the
 same time.

I am proud to be able to call him a friend. What's 30 miles.
 In my opinion Henry achieved his aim and it will take a
 while for his record to be bettered.

Alan Wordie

Northampton, England

Descendant of Sir James Mann Wordie

He was the embodiment of a true gentleman, courageous,
 compassionate, and worthy of all the tributes paid to him
 by his companions on our voyage. He was a prince among
 explorers. It was an honour and a privilege to have
 known Henry.

*'Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince,
 And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest'.*

William Shakespeare

Bill Newton

West Virginia, USA



Others have expressed our grief so much more eloquently
 than I can, so I turn to this poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins

**For the infinite air is unkind,
 And the sea flint-flake, black-backed in the regular blow,
 Sitting Eastnortheast, in cursed quarter, the wind;
 Wiry and white-fiery and whirlwind-swivellèd snow
 Spins to the widow-making unchilding unfathering deeps.**

They fought with God's cold –

And they could not

Mark King

Gloucestershire, England

I particularly remember standing at the Stromness Waterfall
 with Henry, an articulate, courageous man and adventurer.

He, above all, having had made two such journeys with others,
 fully understood the challenges and the risks.

His strong and determined mind, I suspect, made appointments
 his body simply couldn't match.

In spite of modern technology, Antarctica is a dangerous place
 and remains "no man's friend" and continues to devour heroes'.

Ivor Vaughan

Jersey, England

Note from the editor

At a Polar Event in the British Library in February last year,
 I met Henry and he said, "Thanks, I just got my copy of Polar
 Bytes, loved the poster of the Friends Shackleton voyage".
 I remember saying to my fellow editor Celene, wow Henry
 Worsley complimented our magazine. We wish we were
 including him in a different way.



AGM 1996

Polar eByte

20 YEARS OF POLAR BYTES

A Trip Down Memory Lane

By Leona Gaine Murphy

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary issues of Polar Bytes we thought we would go back and speak to the originator and first editor of the newsletter Ms. Philippa Foster Back. It is a testament to her fine work that Polar Bytes is still going strong 20 years on.

As a descendant of Professor Frank Debenham and Sir George Back, both stalwarts of the heroic age of exploration, Philippa firmly believes in the importance of a society of Friends and together with Charles Swithinbank and the team in 1996 they decided to be positively proactive in their communication to the Friends and Polar Bytes was born.

Over the years I think you will agree, the Friends have developed a great affection for their quarterly publication.

Looking back to Polar Bytes in 1996, we can see the Friends were raising money for the Shackleton Memorial Library and also celebrating the 75th Anniversary of SPRI itself. Philippa says she remembers the anniversary

dinner very well to this day. It was an exciting time for the Friends and so much was accomplished.

As well as being Director of the Institute of Business Ethics, she is fully immersed in the polar world. In the 2014 New Years Honours List, Philippa was awarded a CBE for her services to Antarctic Heritage. She currently chairs the Antarctic 100 Committee, leading the organisation of the Shackleton Centenary Service at Westminster Abbey, chairs the Antarctic Place Names Committee and this month will become the Chair of the South Georgia Heritage Trust. Congratulations on this new post! Together with all the readers of Polar Bytes we thank Philippa for bringing our publication to life.

In the next 3 issues we would like to feature YOU the friends in our Trip Down Memory Lane feature. Please send in your memories and photos.



Images left to right: Polar Bytes issue no 69. Philippa Foster Back CBE with the Debenham Islands in the background 2007.



WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR READERS.

We are offering 5 copies of the book* The Enduring Eye to the first 5 friends who write to us with any fond memories of Polar Bytes over the past 20 years and we will publish some in the next few issues of Polar Bytes. Letters or emails are all welcome – send to: **Celene Pickard, Trip Down Memory Lane Feature** (address back page) or email Leona Gaine on gaine@yahoo.co.uk



Terms & conditions apply. See the Friends website.

Antarctic Artist in Residence – Lucy Carty



Being selected as Artist in Residence 2016 for The Friends of SPRI is such a huge honour and I feel privileged to have been taken under their wing and afforded this incredible opportunity.

I am fascinated by natural landscapes, in particular by the similarities I see in the process of their creation to the act of making art. Modelling and carving. Depositing and eroding. Studying aerial imagery as well as microscopic detail in the landscape allows

me to zoom in and out, to move around as a sculptor may when modelling a classical figure. The materials I use vary, but after a trip to Iceland in 2014 I became particularly obsessed with the ancient encaustic technique of painting with melted wax - the physical change of the material itself becoming a symbolic part of the work.

"I am excited to learn more about the complex geological processes at play in Antarctica and how I might bring together the joy of scientific discovery and the grandeur of this terrifyingly beautiful landscape."



NEWS! As well as the Antarctic Artist In Residence, we will be looking for an Arctic Artist In Residence to join the Friends Summer Arctic Voyage in June. Information on the SPRI website coming soon. Sponsored by Bonhams. www.bonhams.com



FoSPRI dates for the diary

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

Enduring Eye:

The Antarctic Legacy of Sir Ernest Shackleton and Frank Hurley

One of the greatest ever photographic records of human survival on display in a new exhibition at the Royal Geographical Society.

A MUST SEE! Newly digitised images reveal previously unseen details.

Open at the RGS until February 28th 2016.



Would you like to win a copy of the Enduring Eye book? See page 7 on how to enter.

Welcome Charlotte

FoSPRI would like to say a warm welcome to The Polar Museum's new curator Charlotte Connelly, who joins us from the Science Museum, London.



General

EVENT	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST/BOOKING
Enduring Eye Exhibition Featuring Photography supplied by SPRI	Until 28 Feb	10 - 5pm	RGS	Free
Bonhams - Exhibition of Wilson Paintings supplied by SPRI	Tues - Fri 2 to 19 August	10 - 4pm weekdays	Bonhams Gallery, 101 New Bond St, London	Free
The Centenary Service of Thanksgiving Shackleton Westminster Abbey	Friday 20 May	12 noon	Westminster Abbey	All welcome. Admission is free but ticketed event, please see below.
Friends of SPRI Spitsbergen Explorer Voyage	10 June	-	Arctic	SOLD OUT
Friends of SPRI AGM	Saturday 19 November	TBA	SPRI Lecture Theatre	-



Westminster Abbey Service

FRIDAY 20TH MAY AT 12 NOON - **Be a part of History in the Making!**

Tickets for this event will become available 6 to 8 weeks before May 20th. Eventbrite will be handling the online ticketing. Further details on how to get tickets will be announced nearer the time. We will ensure you are informed. If you have any issues getting your tickets please check www.eventbrite.com or contact us.

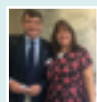
Museum events

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

EVENT	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST/BOOKING
On the Axis of this World by Matt Rogers with Cambridge City Opera.	Tuesday 15 March	6.15pm - 8pm	THE POLAR MUSEUM	£5.75 (concessions) or £8.50 full price. Booking essential. http://bit.ly/OnTheAxis
Little Explorers A different story each session with Marion Leeper. Under 5s only. Children must be accompanied by an adult.	16 March	10am - 10.45pm & 11.15am - 12.00pm		£1.50 per child, payable on arrival. Booking essential. museumevents@spri.cam.ac.uk
	18 May 6 July	10am - 10.45am		
A Tale of Two Icebergs with Professor Grant Bigg.	Friday 18 March	6 - 7pm		Ages 15+. Free Booking essential. http://bit.ly/2icebergs



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

VOUCHERS - Our sponsors of this edition of Polar Bytes have kindly supplied us with 15% discount vouchers for Friends to spend in their shops or online. To take advantage of this offer please contact me Celene, at the Friends office.

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

PASSING FRIENDS - I was deeply shocked and saddened to hear of the untimely and tragic loss of Henry Worsley. He was one of our own - a "Friend" for many years and a huge supporter of the work of the Institute. Our most sincere condolences go out to his dear family - may he rest in peace.

Keep us up-to-date - May we ask you to please keep us informed of any changes to your postal or email addresses.

MEMBER UPDATE

All Friends subscriptions are still valid. New membership renewal dates will be announced in the Spring/Summer edition.

HOW TO CONTACT US?

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