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SCIENCE AND HERITAGE

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POLAR BYTES

ISSUE 079 / SPRING 2016

Loyal readers since 1996



Antarctic Petrel

From Westminster to Wellington – a day of history in the making!

The long awaited Centenary Service of Thanksgiving in honour of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his men is now fast approaching. You are warmly invited to book your tickets (see information on back page) to attend this magnificent occasion to be held at Westminster Abbey on May 20 at midday – a hundred years, to the day Shackleton arrived in Stromness.

To share in this truly historic event, a special Shackleton Centenary lunch will be held for the Friends of SPRI directly after the service onboard the majestic HQS Wellington, Embankment, (see details on back page).

HQS Wellington, a ship not short of a history of survival herself, provided escort during WWII to 103 convoys in the eastern Atlantic and rescued hundreds of survivors from sunken ships, will be the perfect venue to celebrate an unforgettable day. Places are limited to 160 guests.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to share in this special moment in history.

We welcome you onboard!

Written by
Leona Gaine
Vice Chair



HQS Wellington



Are you onboard to win?

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Polar Bytes, we are giving away a pair of tickets to the Friends lunch onboard HQS Wellington on 20 May 2016 inside a copy of this Spring Issue.

Check your copy or email to see if you are a surprise winner! If you are not a winner and would still like to attend, don't forget you can purchase tickets by contacting the Friends Office.

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

DON'T MISS OUT!

Thank you to HQS WELLINGTON for their generous sponsorship
www.hqswellingtonship.co.uk





Welcome to our Spring Polar Bytes newsletter

By this time, Shackleton and his men were nearing the end of their incarceration on the ice, about to make hazardous passage in three small lifeboats to Elephant Island and all that lay ahead on their epic voyage. Here began the real drama of the story, the epic boat journey to and first recorded crossing of South Georgia, and the triumphant but exhausted arrival at Stromness on 20 May 1916. One hundred years later, we will commemorate the remarkable leadership, stoicism and courage of Shackleton and his men at Westminster Abbey; details of the event are posted in this edition of Polar Bytes.

Lucy Carty, our latest Artist in Residence, is now safely onboard HMS PROTECTOR recording the ship's activities and the scenery of Antarctica whilst, thanks to the efforts of Celene and the SPRI team, plans are now in place for the inaugural exhibition by our five AiRs at Bonhams this August alongside a first ever exhibit of Wilson's paintings. This is a wonderful opportunity for the SPRI and the Friends so we very much hope to see you all there.

Finally, our thoughts continue to linger on the sad passing of Henry Worsley whose brilliantly moving funeral was on 11 February 2016. St Paul's in Knightsbridge was packed to the gunnels. Prince William attended along with many Friends and members of the Shackleton Centenary Expedition Cruise of 2014. May he rest in peace and his family prosper.

Nick Lambert, Chairman

From the Institute



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

As I head home at the end of my sabbatical term as a Cambridge-Canterbury Fellow in Christchurch, New Zealand, planning is taking place for scientific research programmes in the Arctic and Antarctic over the coming months. I shall be in Spitsbergen for much of September, with two projects in mind, both in collaboration with the University Centre in Svalbard.

First, I shall be working northeast of the archipelago with the aim of reconstructing the pattern of past ice flow from the ice sheet that covered Svalbard and the Barents Sea 18,000 years ago. A second project will investigate the detailed geometry of three large glacial river deltas at the heads of fjords close to Longyearbyen, and the processes that operate on them.



Icebergs calve regularly from the terminus of New Zealand's Tasman Glacier into the adjacent lake.

The research vessel Helmar Hansen will be the platform for the first project, with a smaller vessel used for the marine investigations near Longyearbyen.

Plans for work in Antarctica in the 2016-17 austral summer are at an early stage, involving deployments in the Southern Ocean from the Falkland Islands and, perhaps, from the McMurdo Sound area as well.

News from the Heritage Collections



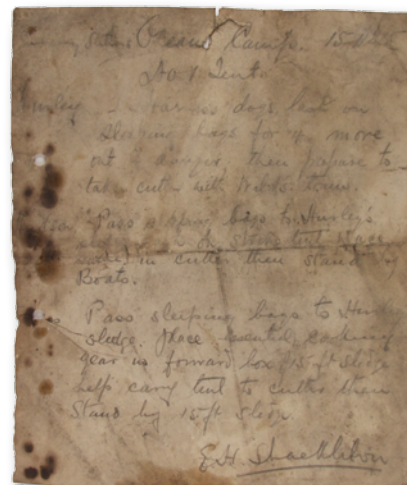
From the Archives Manager, Naomi Boneham
Email: archives@spri.cam.ac.uk



We have two more new members of staff to introduce you to in this edition. Firstly, we welcome Alex to the education and outreach team. Alex has taken over from our lovely Rosie Amos while she is on maternity leave. Anyone coming to events here at the Institute will get a chance to meet him. Alex got thrown into the deep end with his first week coinciding with Twilight, the annual Cambridge Museum's event which sees us turn off the lights and invite people to explore by torch light. Despite it being a rather wet evening we welcomed over a thousand visitors during the event. Alex and Naomi Chapman have since been kept busy with the science festival.

We also welcomed Megan who joins us as the University of Cambridge Conservation intern. Megan will be with us until July and one of her jobs will be to conserve our wonderful medals collection.

For anyone who has yet to make it to Cambridge to see our special centenary exhibition, Shackleton and His Men, good news; we have extended its run until the end of August.



Shackleton wrote out emergency evacuation instructions in the event of the ice breaking up under the men when they were on Ocean Camp.

Each tent had a set pinned to it. This and other treasures from the archives are on display in our Shackleton and His Men exhibition.

A trip down memory lane

Written by Cathy Cooper

When I received the recent electronic copy of Polar Bytes No 78 with the announcement that this was the 20th Anniversary of the Friends magazine, I had to pinch myself.

I went upstairs to my big box of all things Polar and dug out the paper copies of the magazine

that I had kept over the years. As I looked through them, I was overwhelmed by vivid memories from a period of time when I was actively involved with FoSPRI.

One issue in particular, No

46 - January 2008 really says it all. There I am on the front cover receiving a lovely print of a husky painted by the late Sir Wally Herbert.

I was awarded this at an evening in Dyers Hall for my services to charity dog sledging. It was a complete surprise and I think my beaming face shows how pleased I was.



However, what I love the most is that I share the front page with two more photos; Kari and Lady Herbert cutting a cake in memory of Sir Wally who had died in June 2007 and one of Wally's beautiful paintings of a polar bear.

What a privilege to share the front page with the Herbert family. I am very, very honoured.

On the back page is a group photo taken on the HMS ENDURANCE down in Portsmouth.

There we are; Pauline, Celene, myself, Wendy and Heather with Captain Bob Tarrant. He graciously welcomed us on board and made our day very special. A very poignant photograph for me, as Pauline Young is no longer with us.

I think that this issue is the one I treasure the most. It goes to show how a simple four page magazine can spark off a whole rack of memories.

And this is just one Polar Bytes...

Images left to right: HMS ENDURANCE in dry dock; Cathy Cooper photo © Rolf Williams



WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU OUR READERS.

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.

As a thank you we have a limited number of Shackleton themed books to give away to those who write in.

Letter or emails are all welcome – send to Celene Pickard, Trip Down Memory Lane Feature, The Friends Office (address back page) or email Leona Gaine: gaine@yahoo.co.uk

Terms & Conditions apply. See the Friends website.

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF SPRI for a fascinating evening with Charles Moseley, author of 'Latitude North'

He now combines his academic career at Cambridge University with giving lectures on cruise ships visiting the Arctic and Antarctic. During the talk, Charles will share his experiences and the unique culture, literature and environment from the Viking settlements of Greenland and Vinland to the ice-bound islands of the far north.

'Latitude North' is his most recent book and he will be selling and signing copies of the book after the talk.



To book your tickets visit:
<http://bit.ly/FoSPRI-latitude>

Date: **Tuesday 24 May**
Time: **6pm - 7.30pm (doors open 5.30pm)**
Venue: **Lecture theatre at SPRI**
Ticket price: **£6 for non - Friends Free for Friends**

Charles Moseley fell in love with the Arctic lands as a boy growing up in Lancashire. He has since spent his life exploring those lands – from joining as a deck-hand on a deep sea trawler to leading an expedition sledging on Spitsbergen.





FoSPRI dates for the diary

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

HURRY!
LIMITED AVAILABILITY!

The superb One Ocean Suite is still available on the Akademik Sergey Vavilov Spitsbergen FoSPRI Voyage sailing 13 June (10 days/9 nights). Limited budget friendly cabins also available.

Charming Oslo and a reception on the Fram ship precede this historic voyage.

For more information on this superb fundraiser for the Friends please contact info@ice-tracks.com

£1000 DISCOUNT
FOR ALL FRIENDS OF SPRI!

Grand finale of the Shackleton Centenary voyages: 30 October to 20 November 2016. Includes a 4 day traverse of South Georgia led by Sebastian Coulthard! This magnificent 22 day voyage sails from Buenos Aires and disembarks in Ushuaia. Again we are raising funds for FoSPRI. Contact info@ice-tracks.com

Congratulations!

FoSPRI would like to say congratulations to all the lucky winners of the Shackleton Stamp Presentation Packs.

Image © Royal Mail



General

EVENT	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST/BOOKING
Bonhams - Exhibition of Wilson Paintings and Artist In Residence Paintings	Tues - Fri 2 to 19 August	10 - 4pm weekdays	Bonhams Gallery, 101 New Bond St, London	Free
The Shackleton Centenary Service of Thanksgiving Westminster Abbey	Friday 20 May	12 noon	Westminster Abbey	All welcome. Admission is free but ticketed event, please see below
Charles Moseley talk 'Latitude North'	Tuesday 24 May	6pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre	See page 3. Booking: http://bit.ly/FoSPRI-latitude
Friends of SPRI Spitsbergen Explorer Voyage	10 June	-	Arctic	Limited availability
Shackleton Voyage includes the Traverse of South Georgia led by Seb Coulthard	30 October - 20 November	TBA	South Georgia	Prices on request
Friends of SPRI AGM	Saturday 19 November	TBA	SPRI Lecture Theatre	-

Museum events

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

EVENT	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST/BOOKING
By Endurance we Conquer: Shackleton and His Men exhibition	22 Sept - August 2016	10am - 4pm daily	THE POLAR MUSEUM	FREE

From Westminster to Wellington - Book your tickets today!

WESTMINSTER ABBEY SERVICE

20 May 2016 - 12 noon

Simply go to www.eventbrite.com and type in Shackleton Centenary Service to bring up the event registration page.

No entry will be possible without a ticket so do make sure to book yours. If you prefer to type in the full event URL it is <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-centenary-service-for-the-courage-of-sir-ernest-shackleton-cvo-his-men-tickets-21055815511>

HQS WELLINGTON LUNCH

20 May 2016 - 1.30pm - 5.30pm

TICKETS: £42 each to include a welcome drink and a hot buffet. A cash bar will be available for the duration of the event.

Places are limited to 160 guests onboard so please hurry and send contact Celene Pickard either by email: friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk or by post.

Please then post your request plus cheque made payable to 'University of Cambridge a/c YQ' (this MUST be correct) to: The Friends of SPRI, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road Cambridge CB2 1ER. We shall require the name of all persons attending, any dietary requirements, address, tel number and email address. Please enclose A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE so that we may send you the tickets. Please submit your request no later than 6 May 2016.



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

HOW TO CONTACT US?

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