



SUPPORTING POLAR
SCIENCE AND HERITAGE

www.spri.cam.ac.uk/friends

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POLAR BYTES

ISSUE 083 / SPRING 2017

Loyal readers since 1996



Ice cave in Iceland

Out with the Old. In with the New!

Written by Leona Gaine Murphy, Vice Chair FoSPRI

With the centenary of SPRI coming in 2020, we are gearing up to engage even closer with you, our Friends, and are hoping that together we can expand our community even further.

We have the great pleasure of announcing our new streamlined categories of

membership and prices making it even easier to renew or join for the first time.

You will be receiving a copy of the brand new membership leaflet in the post in the next few weeks, a visual of which you can see here.

When you receive your new leaflet please do renew your membership. This can also be done online.

We would be delighted if you can use the leaflet to encourage friends and family to join too. More leaflets can be ordered from the Friends office.

We hope you enjoy the new look and feel!



Our previous leaflet design

Summer Lunch Tickets are now on sale

SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 2017

Mark your diaries for Saturday June 24th. The Friends will get together at the SPRI Lecture Theatre in Cambridge at 12.30pm. This year's Summer Lunch will feature a talk by the Polar Museum Curator – Charlotte Connelly on The International Geophysical Year, 60 years on.

All members and their guests are welcome – please book early! Tickets are £20 each. See back page for more details.



Thank you to Argos Froyanes for their generous sponsorship



Argos Froyanes
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Welcome to our Spring Polar Bytes newsletter

More than 650 guests attended the inaugural Annual Polar Tribute Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society on 5th April to celebrate Henry Worlsey's life and achievements. The drive and imagination of Friend of SPRI Peter Dolan and the merry troupe of 'Vavilovs' (passengers on board the Friends 2014 Voyage) brought this about. It will now be the annual event it was dreamt to be. They are a shining example of how great collaboration and outreach can make things happen. Thanks to the brilliant support of Joanna Worsley, One Ocean Expeditions, Ice Tracks, the RGS, Celene, Lucy and numerous others, this was arguably one of the biggest events hosted by the Friends in recent times.

Shelly Perkins, our 2017 Artist in Residence, returned from Antarctica and HMS PROTECTOR full of enthusiasm and with bags of material to work on. Meanwhile our Vice Chair Leona has conceptualised and delivered the new membership brochure and we are especially grateful for the generosity of Argos Froyes in funding Polar Bytes.

Please do use the membership form to renew your membership and to attract newcomers to our cause and we much look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Summer Lunch in June.

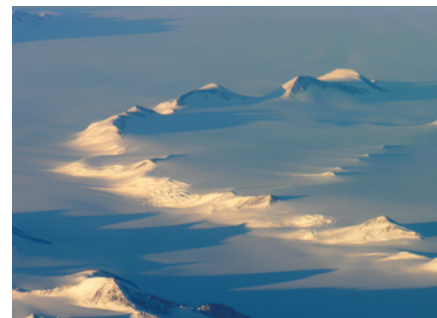
Nick Lambert, Chairman

From the Institute



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

At the Institute, plans are being made for summer fieldwork in Svalbard and Greenland. One doctoral student is building a number of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) which will be deployed to take repeat photographs of the iceberg-producing termini of fast-flowing outlet glaciers of the Greenland Ice Sheet. Our MPhil students in Polar Studies are in the final stages of writing up their theses under the supervision of our academic staff. Topics I am supervising include the mapping and interpretation of stream channels on the Antarctic continental shelf, where multibeam bathymetric maps of the seafloor allow the identification of channel systems formed about 20,000 years ago under an expanded Antarctic Ice Sheet.



Mountains piercing the ice-sheet surface in Victoria Land, Antarctica

The undergraduates we teach in the Department of Geography are also revising for their end-of-year examinations, and we offer revision supervisions at this time. Once the examination period is over, the field deployments of SPRI staff and research students begin – I will have periods in Northeast Greenland and Svalbard during the Arctic summer, as well as writing up the results of previous field projects where geophysical data on modern and past ice-sheet extent and flow have been acquired from ships and aircraft.

News from the Heritage Collections



From the SPRI Archives, Naomi Bonham,
email: nab37@cam.ac.uk



Once upon an iceberg

Senior Library Assistant Martin French lets us into one of the Library's best-kept secrets.

As well as the latest documents from the Polar sciences and historical documents about British polar exploration, SPRI Library also houses its own fiction collection.

Much like the rest of the Library, it's an eclectic mix of genres, languages and styles. Mills & Boon romance, horror, spy thrillers, war stories... if you can imagine it, we probably have a story about it! This section also houses poetry anthologies as well as play scripts.

This year, the Library is pleased to be hosting, amongst other visiting scholars, Johanna Grabow. Johanna is a PhD candidate from Leipzig University who has a background in English Literature and



Settling down for a good read, visiting scholar Johanna Grabow at her desk in the SPRI old library.

History and she is studying Antarctica in Contemporary Fiction. She says, "This really is the most extensive Library for Polar materials, especially fiction. It's also a lovely place to work! What I like is that there are people from different fields and you can collaborate and exchange ideas and get ideas you didn't have before."

In light of this, we have plans to move the fiction collection from its current location in the Basement to be on the main Library floor and thus visible and accessible to all.

ANNUAL POLAR TRIBUTE AT THE RGS



The first of our Polar Tribute Lectures celebrating the lives of post Heroic Age Polar visionaries, scientists

and explorers was held at the Royal Geographic Society on the 5th April.

The inaugural lecture was held in honour of the late Henry Worsley who lost his life traversing Antarctica a little over a year ago. The hall, filled to capacity, included Henry's wife, Joanna, and his children Max and Alicia. Friends of SPRI flew in from as far as the States and Europe for the special evening which was the brainchild of Peter Dolan.

Max demonstrated his father's bravery and spoke unfalteringly about his family's loss. Michael Palin the television star and world traveller topped the bill with an enlightening and highly amusing lecture on what makes some people purposely choose trips that take them out of their comfort zone.

Robert Swan, the first person to walk to both North and South Poles gave a fine speech about his and Henry's love and determination to protect Antarctica.

Appropriately, as Henry was determined to inspire children, four school children – Dan Low, Jake Simey, Harry Day and James Dennis, spoke about following Henry's daily podcasts and what it meant to them. They stole the show!

Friends of SPRI chairman, Rear Admiral Nick Lambert – acted as Master of Ceremonies for an evening that can only be described as a triumph at a venue that Henry loved.

We look forward to the next one in 2018.

Image top: Passengers from our 2014 Antarctic Voyage who came to the RGS from all corners of the world as well as CEO Andrew Prossin and staff of One Ocean Expeditions © Lucy Hacker.



Image from left to right: Dan Low, Robert Swan, Michael Palin and Harry Day © Lucy Hacker



A BIG THANK YOU

Friends of SPRI would like to say a huge thank you to Michael Palin for his generous giving of time and support and to One Ocean Expeditions for their generous sponsorship of this event.



Polar Medal honour

Written by Angie Butler

On the 19th April Joanna Worsley was honoured to receive her late husband's Polar Medal at Buckingham Palace.

At the end of the ceremony the family were given a private audience with Prince William. At a gathering at the Traveller's Club in Pall Mall, post ceremony, I had the honour of saying a few words. Determined to get my facts right, I consulted friend of SPRI Dr. Mike Wain, who has the largest private collection of Polar medals and the medal expert Glenn Stein FRGS.

Images left to right: Polar Medal; Prince William presenting the Polar Medal to Joanna Worsley.



The last person to be awarded the Polar medal posthumously was the Inuit Joe Panipakuttuk (pronounced: Panipakuchoo), a special constable who was guide and interpreter in the Canadian RCMP schooner St. Roch from Pond Inlet to Herschel Island. His wife received the medal on his behalf in 1974.

We calculated that Henry is only the 12th person to receive the Polar medal posthumously since its inception in 1904.

A great idea

It was Friend of SPRI Peter Dolan who came up with the idea of having a Polar Tribute Lecture in Henry Worsley's honour and taking it forward to

honour other contemporary explorers who have and are still pushing the boundaries.

As Peter himself would say – one volunteer is better than ten pressed men, so he valiantly led the way bringing people together to execute and deliver on the vision.

We would like to say thank you Peter for your drive and energy and we always welcome great ideas from the Friends.



Peter inside Dorian Bay Refuge Hut



FoSPRI dates for the diary

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

General

EVENT:	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST/BOOKING:
Summer Lunch. With a talk by Charlotte Connelly, Museum Curator at the Polar Museum, SPRI	24 June 2017	Doors open 12.30pm for a 1pm start	SPRI Lecture Theatre	Tickets: £20 each. http://tinyurl.com/m5fxv5h <i>Please contact the Friends on friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk - if you have any dietary requirements</i>
Friends of SPRI AGM	11 Nov 2017	TBA	SPRI Lecture Theatre	FREE
NEW Friends Voyage 2018 Baffin Island & Greenland Explorer STOP PRESS	5 - 15 September 2018	TBA	Baffin Island & Greenland	Further details will follow shortly.

Museum events

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

EVENT:	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:	COST/BOOKING:
The Year That Made Antarctica People, politics & the International Geophysical Year	26 April - 9 September 2017	10am - 4pm	THE POLAR MUSEUM	FREE
Shackleton: Life and Leadership To mark the centenary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic (Endurance) Expedition - 1914-17	Until 22 December 2017	10am - 4pm		FREE



A sustainable partnership

Argos Froyanes is an Anglo-Norwegian fishing company operating in the Ross Sea and South Georgia, two of the world's most sensitive marine environments.

For the last 20 years, we've been privileged to have set the standard by which toothfish are sustainably harvested - and we're committed to working in partnership with the scientific community to preserve this delicate ecosystem for future generations.



Argos Froyanes
Partners for sustainability

STOP PRESS

**ANNOUNCING
THE NEXT FRIENDS
VOYAGE FOR 2018**
**Baffin Island & Greenland
Explorer**
5 - 15 September 2018
10 nights / 11 days
**Starting in Kangerlussuaq
(Søndre Strømfjord) and
ending in Iqaluit**
**FURTHER DETAILS
WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.**

The International Geophysical Year, 60 years on. *Summer Lunch* Talk by Charlotte Connelly.



Charlotte Connelly is the Curator at the Polar Museum, SPRI and will give a talk on The International Geophysical Year, 60 years on.

This fascinating talk will cover the largest scientific undertaking the world had ever seen: the International Geophysical Year. But perhaps the biggest success over the eighteen months from July 1957, was its legacy - The Antarctic Treaty which is still in force today - securing Antarctica as a continent for peace and science.

All members and their guests are welcome - please book early, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/m5fxv5h>

To find out more about the International Geophysical Year, visit our current exhibition at the Polar Museum 'The Year That Made Antarctica'



A note from the Executive Secretary



We are delighted with our new and improved membership scheme. The new leaflet will be in the post soon. Any enquiries should be sent to Celene Pickard, email: friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk

TAKE NOTE - All Friends (apart from life members) need to renew their membership to join the new improved scheme. Annual subscriptions can be done online or by filling in the new form. Standing orders, however have to be reset up again by filling in the new form only and cannot yet be done online.

CONGRATULATIONS - We are delighted to have selected our second ever Arctic artist in residence Kat Austen.

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

HOW TO CONTACT US?

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