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POLAR E-BYTES



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Seb Coulthard, sailor, engineer, adventurer and builder of the exact replica James Caird makes history and is seeking volunteers!

I published a Facebook advert calling for willing volunteers to join me in Scotland this summer and you can imagine my delight when the grandson and great-grandson of Captain Robert Falcon Scott agreed to join me from the word 'GO!'.

After assessing the weather carefully last month (May 2017), I had the pleasure of greeting Falcon and Christopher Scott aboard the J. CAIRD at Lochaber Sailing Club. We towed the boat out of Loch Linnhe, hoisted sails up, and the let history



Welcome to our Summer Polar E-Bytes newsletter

On reflection, we've enjoyed a relatively quiet interlude between PB editions allowing our fab team the time to conclude and issue our new membership forms. Numerous people were involved in what proved to be a surprisingly complex and tricky process; in particular I wish to highlight the efforts of committee members Celene, Leona and Angie, our star designer/printer, Kristy Jones of Arliam Design, and the support of the Institute staff led by Kate. Well done team and thank you very much for your dedication. Kate warrants an additional mention as she retired from SPRI on 28 June after 9 years' service – dedicated, invariable professional and tenacious, she has been a stalwart and a great supporter of the Friends. Thank you and best of luck for the future Kate!

Our well attended summer lunch in Cambridge was blessed with fine weather and an excellent presentation on 'The International Geophysical Year - 60 years on' by Charlotte Connelly, curator at the Institute. Plans are afoot for the AGM in November, our Arctic Artist in Residence programme is underway with Kat Austen sailing on 25 July 2017 to Baffin Island and the Canadian Arctic. Lucy, our Antarctic AiR for the 15/16 season held a fantastic exhibition in London on 30 June. Details of these and other events can be

talk to us in a way only a hands-on experience can - it all came to life!



Falcon and Chris are great sailors, both dab-hands at dinghy sailing. We soon established how the boat performed in certain tides, winds, and currents, however, there is still much to learn and I would encourage others to join me in Scotland during the months of August and September.

Find out more [CLICK HERE](#)



Our 2016 Artist in Residence braves freezing temperatures!

Sponsored by One Ocean Expeditions and Bonhams, Julian Grater joined the Friends Spitsbergen Voyage 2016

Wrapped up in numerous layers, Julian worked in a disused metal-clad laboratory on the top deck of the *Akademik Sergey Vavilov*. The rigours of this ocean-going garret appeared to intensify his passion for the Arctic. For those who could stand the biting cold were rewarded with a glimpse of

seen below.

So loads going on, please do join us whenever you can and I wish you all a very relaxing summer break!

Nick Lambert, Chairman



Photo: Nick Lambert and Lucy Carty (Artist in Residence 2016).

FRIENDS TO THE ARCTIC!

Join our Director Prof. Julian Dowdeswell on our very special 14 night Friend's voyage to Greenland and Baffin Island voyage.
3rd - 17th September 2018.
Early Bird discounts available!
Contact info@ice-tracks.com for further information.



From the Institute

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

I've recently been in the Faroe Islands, giving a public lecture and speaking on radio about environmental change issues in the Arctic.

The Faroes are an archipelago of sub-Arctic

truly mesmerizing work and a foretaste of a future exhibition.

Here is an extract of his account of the Residency. To read it in full, [click here](#).

Numerous glaciers calved icebergs, witnessed at close proximity from the zodiacs at Monacobreen. The surface of the sea fizzed and cracked as the gases released from the floating ice litter exploded into shrapnel under the glare of the sun. The forces of nature were at work and we were witness to this extraordinary sensory spectacle. Way out on the mouth of the fjords, icebergs defied gravity, back-lit and silhouetted, levitating above the ocean horizon in a solar shimmer. Meanwhile on land, the charcoal black terminal moraines were growing ever longer, delineating the retreat of their calving glacial heads.

What artists need is space and time, particularly during residencies of short duration. This is an imperative, an absolute prerequisite in order to initiate formative ideas inextricably linked with the physical production of the work itself. Emergent ideas which may require more than the plain air recording of the quickly observed. During residencies where the nature of the environment is informing the artist's practice, whether working from it, or with it, creating these formative visual ideas requires a degree of solitude in order to reflect upon and critique this creatively critical period.

From my own perspective, establishing ideas and the visual precursors to studio based works which would come later, required these solitary moments of reflection and revision in order to feel that there was a likelihood of quickly made work having the potential for any significant longevity.

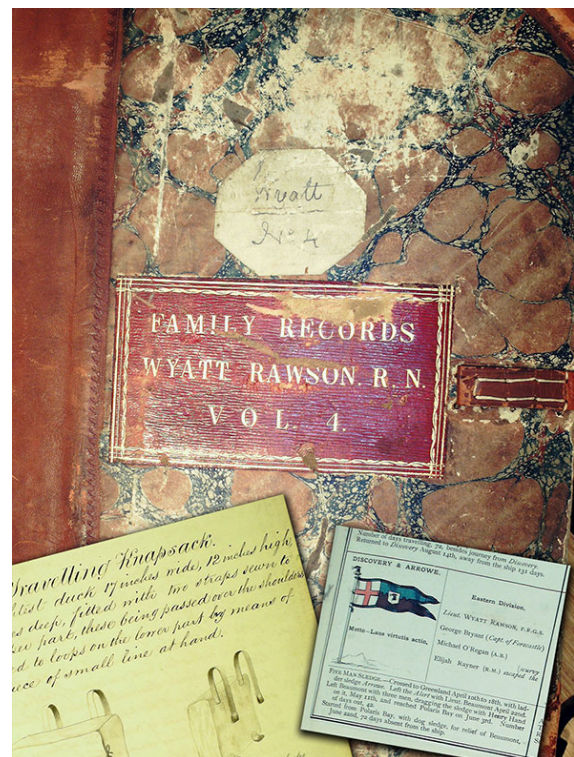


**NEWSFLASH!
CALLING ALL FRIENDS,
WE NEED YOU!**

islands, about halfway between Shetland and Iceland, with a population of around 50,000. The capital is Thorshavn. Travelling around the islands, many of which are linked by tunnels, allowed me to observe evidence of past glaciation, along with the dominating lava flows that formed the islands about 50 million years ago. Ice appears to have built up to cover the entire archipelago and surrounding continental shelf about 20,000 years ago, at the height of the last full-glacial period.

I have begun discussions with Faroese academics about possible collaborative research concerning the past ice cover of this little-researched set of islands. The glacial environment is probably rather similar to the Southern Hemisphere setting of the South Orkney Islands and their surrounding continental shelf, which was investigated recently by Will Dickens, a research student supervised jointly by me and staff at the British Antarctic Survey.

Photo: Mountain and coastal scenery in the Faroe Islands.



One Mans Life - News from the Heritage Collections

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

The Summer lunch, was hugely enjoyable thanks to museum curator, Charlotte Connelly's lecture on The International Geophysical Year, 60 years On. However, it would of been great to have a few more volunteers helping out during the event. Could you spare a few hours of your time for any upcoming events? If so please register your interest by emailing: friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk

Thank you in advance.



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their generous sponsorship**

The archives holds a collection of scrap books, these are a treasure trove of information on people and places, filled with newspaper clippings, diary entries, letters, postcards, photographs, invitations and menus and in some cases pressed flowers, these volumes were usually compiled by the families left behind. Due to their often varied nature they have a scope far beyond just polar interests, with family trees and non polar details they allow researchers to build up a picture not only of their subject but also of the people who made the choices of what to keep.

One of my favourite set of volumes relate to the life of Wyatt Rawson (1853-1882) and include his voyage to the Arctic in 1875 as a member of the British Arctic expedition under George Strong Nares. Running to six volumes in total, volume four is perhaps the most used as it covers his Arctic voyages in the most detail and is the one people on group visits will usually get to see. However its just part of his fascinating life story which took him from Africa to the Arctic. The volumes are filled to bursting with letters, diary entries and accounts.

For those of you unfamiliar with this expedition which had hoped to reach the North Pole I recommend digging deeper. These volumes are part of our loan collection and I am delighted that we have renewed this loan so that research's will be able to access the wonderful content.

Photo montage: The papers are bound into these wonderful volumes; The volumes include handwritten information on the kit taken north; Wyatt's sledge flag one of several listed in the volume.



FoSPRI dates for the diary





The Year That Made Antarctica

People, politics & the International Geophysical Year

Wednesday 26 April –
Saturday 9 September 2017
at the Polar Museum

Over dinner in the spring of 1950 a party of scientists produced an ambitious proposal for a global year of science: The International Geophysical Year was born. With a heavy emphasis on Antarctica, thousands of people from dozens of countries came together to learn about our planet. Among many other achievements, the year laid the foundations for the Antarctic Treaty which has preserved the continent for science and peaceful activity for almost sixty years.

Find out more [CLICK HERE](#)



Shackleton: Life and Leadership

Showing until 22 December 2017
at the Polar Museum

To mark the centenary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic (*Endurance*) Expedition, 1914–17, The Polar Museum has unveiled a redesigned and expanded display in its permanent galleries covering Shackleton's life and career.

The re-worked displays explore the life of the young merchant sailor who went on to achieve fame as one of the great Antarctic explorers.

Find out more [CLICK HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Friends of SPRI AGM this year will be held on Saturday 11th November 2017.

Don't forget to put it in your dairy!



A note from the Executive Secretary

We are delighted with our new and improved membership scheme, details of which, along with a new membership form has been posted to all members. 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 must be reset up again by filling in the new form only and cannot yet be done online.

Thank you to all members who have already renewed their subscriptions under these new methods. Your support is very much valued. We look forward to hearing from those still to renew.

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

PASSING FRIENDS– We are very sad to note the passing of so many Friends: Mark Butterworth, Graeme Keall, M.P. Purvis, Angela Yaffey, Nigel Sitwell, Ben Hodges, Peter Edgley, Alexander McCarthy-Best and John Anthony Platt. We extend our condolences to their families.

Celene Pickard, Secretary



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