

Welcome to our Polar E-bytes Winter 2018/2019

[View this email in your browser](#)



SUPPORTING POLAR
SCIENCE AND HERITAGE

www.spri.cam.ac.uk/friends

POLAR E-BYTES



Issue 090 December/January/February 2019 / Loyal readers since 1996

In this issue

- [– Chairman's Welcome](#)
- [– News from the Institute](#)
- [– Curator's Corner](#)
- [– News from the Heritage Collections](#)
- [– AGM & SGA Autumn Event](#)
- [– Erebus: The Story of a Ship](#)
- [– Dates for the Diary](#)



The FoSPRI Chairman's Welcome

Dear All,
I hope all the
members of the

FoSPRI had a fabulous Christmas and
New Year.

I'm writing my first Chairman's report early
as I am heading off to Antarctica today,
Thursday 27 December 2018, to be the
Voyage Leader for the Weddell Sea
Expedition. Currently, I'm speed typing in
the departure lounge at London Heathrow
waiting for my flight to Cape Town, South
Africa! It will be from Cape Town that we



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

New FoSPRI Chairman and Voyage
Leader of the Weddell Sea Expedition -
John Shears checks out the
penguins at Penguin Bukta, Fimbul Ice
Shelf, Antarctica

Photo: © Colin de la Harpe

fly to Antarctica to meet our Expedition ship - S.A. *Agulhas II* at the Fimbul Ice Shelf in Dronning Maud Land. Working alongside me on the ship will be Professor Julian Dowdeswell and Dr Evelyn Dowdeswell, along with a team of top scientists from SPRI. The objectives of the Expedition will be to undertake the first scientific survey of the Larsen C Ice Shelf, and if the sea ice permits then we will also search for the wreck of Shackleton's *Endurance*. It will be the adventure of a lifetime! You can follow us on the Expedition website -

www.weddellseaexpedition.org.

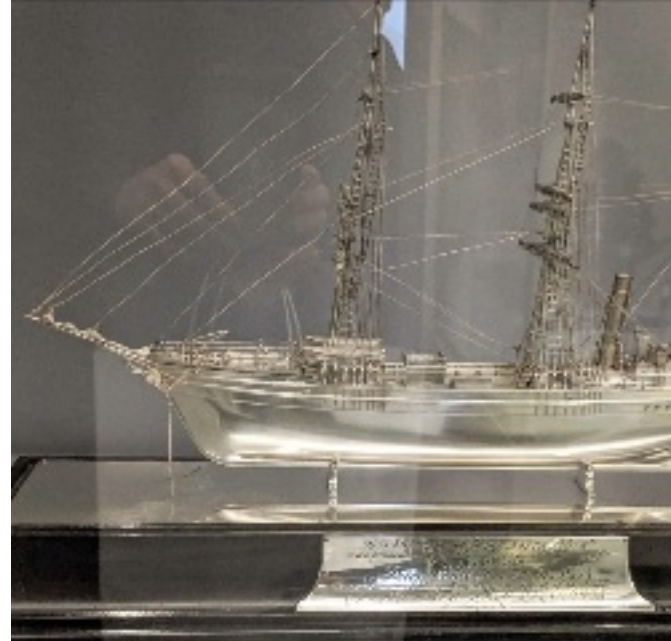
I know that while I'm away the FoSPRI will be in the very good hands of our Vice-Chair - Susan Rose and our Executive Secretary - Celene Pickard. They, together with the hard working FoSPRI Committee, will be planning a wide range of events for 2019 and looking ahead to start-up new projects for the SPRI centenary in 2020 and continue our excellent fund raising efforts. We will be building on a fantastic and successful 2018. The end of the year finished on a high with a very successful joint event with the South Georgia Association on 10 November, and then a brilliant lecture by Michael Palin about HMS *Erebus* on 28 November.

Finally, I'd like to pay tribute and say a huge thank you to my predecessor as the Chairman of the FoSPRI - Nick Lambert. Nick did a fantastic job for the Friends, and his hard work has enabled the Friends to expand and develop into the thriving and exciting organisation it is today. I have big shoes to fill!

I have to go now, otherwise I'm going to miss my flight!!!

Best regards to you all,

John Shears, Chairman



FoSPRI AGM and South Georgia Association Event 10 November 2018

Written by Garry Evenden

The high turnout for this event meant that the lecture theatre in the Chemistry Department was acquired for the programme. Nine presentations on history, conservation, ecology, the arts and exploration were given during the day, which began in scintillating fashion with Bob Burton, who talked about Captain Larsen and the whaling industry in South Georgia.

The latest news regarding the Weddell Sea Expedition was brought by John Shears and for many one of the highlights of the day was young artist Theo Crutchley-Mack, who displayed some of his paintings of the whaling stations in South Georgia. It will be interesting to see how his talents develop in the future.

A silver model of Scott's ship the *Terra Nova*, which had belonged to Peter Scott, needed much painstaking restoration and Sophie Rowe of SPRI explained the intricacies required for the task. The result of her work was a joy to behold. The remaining talks were all of a high quality given by experts in their fields and those listening were able to learn much.

Following the main event of the day, the Friends AGM was held. The Chairman for the last eight years, Nick Lambert, was standing down and the meeting expressed its sincere thanks to Nick for all his dedication and hard work during his tenure



News from the



The run-up to an expedition is always a very busy time, and the situation for our forthcoming Weddell Sea expedition to Antarctica, which begins on 1 January, is no exception.

All the equipment needed for sampling and imaging of the Larsen C Ice Shelf has been shipped to Cape Town and is now on board the *Agulhas II*, en route for Penguin Bukta near the South African SANAE Research Station, where myself and a party of five from SPRI will board the vessel for the 45-day voyage in the Weddell Sea. We hope to investigate the form and flow of the ice shelf and also reconstruct its stability or otherwise over the past 12,000 years. In addition, if sea-ice conditions permit, we will attempt to locate and image the wreck of Sir Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance*, which lies about 250 km east of the Larsen C Ice Shelf in 3,000 m of water.

Prior to this, I have just returned from taking part in the 2018 Nobel Prize events in Stockholm. I was a panellist in two discussion sessions, and gave a talk on the sensitivity of the polar regions to environmental change, on the Nobel Dialogues day. I was also invited to attend the Nobel Prizes ceremony and evening banquet, which takes place each year in the presences of the King and Queen of Sweden; very special occasions which it was an honour to be a small part of.

Photo: SPRI Director, Julian Dowdeswell at the Nobel Prize Events in Stockholm, Sweden.

of office. Presentations were made to Nick and his wife Beverly to further show its appreciation.

John Shears, who will replace Nick as Chairman in 2019, updated the meeting regarding the FoSPRI's finances, which were in a very healthy position. A surplus of over £22,500 was recorded and substantial monies continue to be raised via ship passenger auctions on polar excursions. A target has been set to raise £250,000 by the end of 2020 for the SPRI Centenary Campaign and currently over £30,000 has been accumulated.

The very heavy rain that had fallen throughout most of the day could not dampen what had been a most successful and enjoyable time.

Photos top to bottom: The beautifully restored silver Terra Nova model; Enjoying lunch at the FoSPRI AGM; We waved a sad farewell to our past Chairman, Nick Lambert.



- News from the Museum

By Charlotte Connelly



Polar Encounters, our exhibition of Arctic Art is still on display until 13 April 2019, and is proving very popular with visitors.

Just before Christmas we installed Kat Austen's light box, part of her *Matter of the Soul* work. Kat was the 2017 Friends of SPRI Arctic Artist in Residence, and her work has been gaining lots of interest: she was interviewed on Radio 3's Free Thinking programme on 13 December (you can still find the episode [online](#)), and was invited to perform music drawing on her time in the Arctic at the Greenpeace Climate Hub at COP24 – the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Our next exhibition also looks north. *Meeting Points: Art from Alaska* will be an opportunity to get some of our rarely seen Alaskan collections on display. We're also delighted to be borrowing some Captain Cook era material from our neighbours at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

We have some fantastic events lined up for the new year. On 20 February the popular [Twilight at the Museums](#) will return, providing after hours fun for our younger visitors. The popular [Operation Survival](#) game is back: teams compete against the clock, answering questions and finding clues across four museums in Cambridge, including our very own Polar Museum. We're also delighted that after some successful pilot tours, we'll be running '[Bridging Binaries](#)' tours, where volunteer tour guides share their personal selection of fascinating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer-related stories through the objects on display.

Photos top to bottom: A Bridging Binaries Tour at The Polar Museum © Dan Nouveau.



Bon Voyage!

We wish our latest Antarctic Artist in Residence Andrew Lansley, who joins HMS *Protector* this February, huge success on his adventure and look forward to seeing the results of his trip in the months ahead! His current work will be on show this February in Ludlow (*See Events for details*)



Erebus: The



News from the Heritage Collections

By Naomi Boneham



In the last issue we mentioned that the Friends room was undergoing a complete refurbishment, we are part of the way through now with just our lovely new display case to fill with treasures from the collections and I hope you will agree that it is all looking rather lovely.

2019 will see us enter the last year of our Heritage Lottery funded Shackleton project, a new Shackleton teacher pack has just been launched, and more information on the wonderful archive collections we hold for Shackleton and his expeditions will be shared online.

Photo: The new Friends room at the Polar Museum

Story of a Ship

Fundraising Talk with Michael Palin

Written by Bonnie Pickard

On a rainy evening in November the chemistry lecture theatre was packed to the rafters with over 400 guests. We were delighted to welcome in many new faces and old friends too, that had come from far and wide.

We were all here to enjoy the privilege of listening to a lecture by the inimitable Sir Michael Palin about his latest book, *'Erebus: The Story of a Ship'*. As an audience we were captivated by this master storyteller who retold the many adventures and achievements had by the Royal Naval bomb vessel HMS *Erebus*, that spanned from 1839 to 1846.

Simultaneously, we were treated to snippets of Sir Michael's own travels to the Arctic and Northwest Passage with *One Ocean Expeditions*, where he retraced aspects of HMS *Erebus's* voyages. During the talk we were whisked pole to pole through Tasmania, the Falkland Islands, and the Ross Sea, through to its tragic end in the frozen wastes of the Canadian Arctic.

This included the infamous tale of Captain Sir John Franklin's endeavour to traverse the complete Northwest Passage in 1845. Along with many a chuckle the story was brought to life using rare photographs and paintings that illustrated the personalities of Franklin's men. This epic tale came full circle when in 2014 the wreck of HMS *Erebus* was discovered, epitomised by the closing image of the reclaimed ship's bell. We rounded off this wonderful event with a book signing and the unique opportunity to meet Sir Michael.

Steppes Travel also attended for those who wished to embark on their own polar adventures to the Northwest Passage and the Ross Sea with the Friends. Special thanks must also be made to the SPRI staff and Friends volunteers who also orchestrated a seamless transition from the marvellous Polar Museum to the theatre.

Ultimately, a thoroughly excellent evening to be had by all!

Photos top to bottom: Michael Palin kindly signing copies of his new book © Susan Rose; Celene Pickard, Michael Palin and Nick Lambert at the event © Bryan Lintott; A sell-out crowd © Susan Rose.

ICONS

The Greatest Figures
of the 20th Century

BBC
TWO

Watch the Grand Live Final
5th February 2019
BBC 2 at 9.00pm



Sir Ernest Shackleton
WINNER of the
Explorers Category

[Click here for more information](#)



Ice Talks

Listen to Dr Michael Bravo, Jean McNeil and our 2017 Arctic Artist in Residence (AiR) Kat Austen, speaking on Radio 3 with Anne McElvoy about their experiences and interpretations of the poles through poetry, prose and sound. [Click here to listen](#)

Photo: Kat Austen performing Matter of the Soul at

COP24 © Kat Austen



Scott's Expedition Doctor to be honoured by the Royal Navy

Following publication of the biography of Dr. Edward Leicester Atkinson 'The Man who found Captain Scott' (Michael C.

Tarver, 2015) the Royal Navy have launched an annual award in his honour. The 'Edward Leicester Atkinson Prize' will be an annual award made to a Royal Navy Medical Officer who displays values of

leadership and moral courage during the New Entry Medical Officer course, either at Britannia Royal Naval College or the Institute of Naval Medicine.

Photo: Dr Atkinson in the laboratory. September 15th, 1911 © SPRI University of Cambridge



FoSPRI dates for the diary



Ice and Light - an exhibition of art by 2018 Arctic AiR Nick Jones

WHEN: 14 Feb - 09 Mar 2019

TIME: 10am - 6pm Mon-Fri and 10am - 4pm Sat

LOCATION: Crane Kalman Gallery, 178 Brompton Road, London, SW3 1HQ

COST: Free

Photo: Ice and Light - 'Fog Bow and Melt Pools' by Nicholas Jones © The Artist

Artist Explorers - group exhibition featuring Andrew Lansley, 2018/19 Antarctic AiR

WHEN: 2 Feb - 02 Mar 2019

TIME: 10.30am - 4.30pm Tues - Sat

LOCATION: Twenty Twenty Gallery, 4 Quality Square, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1AR

COST/BOOKING: Free

Twilight at The Museum - family fun after-hours

WHEN: 20 Feb 2019

TIME: 4.30 – 7.30pm

LOCATION: The Polar Museum

COST: Free

Polar Encounters - Arctic Art

WHEN: Until 13 April 2019

TIME: 10am - 4pm

LOCATION: The Polar Museum

COST: Free

Bridging Binaries - Museum Tours

WHEN: Saturdays only until 24 Feb 2019

TIME 2pm

LOCATION: The Polar Museum

COST: Free

[Booking information](#)

Operation Survival - a high-energy game about survival across four University of Cambridge Museums

WHEN: Selected Saturdays 20 Oct – 23 Mar

TIME: 10am - 12.30pm

LOCATION: The Polar Museum, The Museum of Zoology, Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences & Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

COST/BOOKING: £15 per person

Age 18+ only

[Click here to book and for more information](#)

SteppesTravel



Antarctic cruise -



Canadian Northwest

Ross Sea Voyage

ACCOMPANIED BY EXPERT
GLACIOLOGISTS, JULIAN AND
EVELYN DOWDESWELL

16th February - 18th March 2020

- Join this special voyage organised by Friends of SPRI to recognise their centenary
- Hosted by Julian and Evelyn Dowdeswell from SPRI
- An epic cruise including ship to shore helicopter transfers and expert naturalists
- Sail in comfort onboard the ice-strengthened *Ortelius*

For more information or to book your place [click here](#)

Passage Voyage

24th August - 5th September 2021

- Follow in the wake of early explorers as you traverse the mythical Northwest Passage
- Visit locations associated with Franklin's tragic search for the Northwest Passage
- Explore the home of the polar bear, musk ox, caribou and walrus
- Travel aboard the RCGS *Resolute* - one of the most comfortable expedition vessels in the Arctic

For more information or to book your place [click here](#)

Photos left to right: Ortelius, Ross Sea © Nicole Lynn Smoot; Hudsons Bay Company, NW Passage © Steppes Travel.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our AGM and event will be held on the 9 November 2019. Details to follow.

Don't forget to put it in your dairy!

A note from the Executive Secretary

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you all!

After a breathtakingly busy 2018 we are now in the planning stages for this year's events. There will be further updates very shortly. I will also be in contact regarding the renewal of memberships, which directly contributes to the incredible work of the Institute.

We remain extremely grateful to you our Friends, for your continued support. Thank you!

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

Celene Pickard, Secretary



Argos Froyanes

Partners for sustainability

Thank you to Argos Froyanes for their generous sponsorship

www.argosfroyanes.com



Information correct at time of going to press. E&OE.

Photographs remain the copyright of their respective owners.

Editor: Lucy Carty. Designed by Arliam Design.

Our mailing address is:

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

Tel: 01223 336 540

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

FoSPRI · University of Cambridge · Lensfield Road · Cambridge, CB2 1ER · United Kingdom



mailchimp