

POLAR BYTES

No. 69 – October 2013

From the Chairman, Nick Lambert



Dear Friends,



It has been a particularly successful season for Friends' events, with the black tie dinner on HMS VICTORY as the highlight. The whole event raised over £3,000 for the Friends.

Planning for the Shackleton Endurance

Centenary is now well under way. We will be represented at the next Antarctica 100 meeting, which is a great opportunity to discuss plans with colleagues from other Polar organisations across the UK. SPRI is hosting the new web site which will record the centenary events – please see shackleton100.org for details.

Two recent developments may be of particular interest. First, we welcome to Cambridge, Prof. Jane Francis, the new Director of the British Antarctic Survey. Secondly, we are delighted to hear that the Royal Navy has purchased the polar patrol vessel HMS PROTECTOR. As an Affiliated Society, we are very pleased that her future is secure. We wish Captain Rhett Hatcher and his crew *bon voyage* as they sail South for a two-year deployment.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM on 9th November. Please return your ballot on changes to the constitution by 1st November. Our special guest speaker will be Robert Burton. Tickets for the lecture and buffet supper are £25 – please see the enclosed booking form.

There will be two lectures in the Lent Term. In January, in association with the Polar Museum and the Cambridge Russian Speaking Society, we will be holding a study day which will focus

on the Siberian region of Magadan. This will be a chance to meet photographers Pavel Zhdanov and Andrey Osipov whose work will be on display.

An Honour for our Chairman

The Friends will be particularly proud that Rear Admiral Nick Lambert RN, former captain of the Royal Navy's old ice patrol ship HMS ENDURANCE and the UK's National Hydrographer, has had an Antarctic island named for him.

Lambert Island is one of a series of remote rocky isles in the South Shetland Islands which have been given titles to recognise the work of British explorers and scientists.

The Aitcho Islands, pronounced H-O, for Hydrographic Office, are part of the British Antarctic Territory and Lambert Island, which is about 350ft long and 150ft wide at its broadest point, lies at 62° 22' 16.0" S, 59° 45' 49.0" W.



An aerial shot of the Aitcho Islands taken from one of HMS Endurance's, with pointers to the newly-named isles (Photo courtesy Navy News)

Nick's reaction: 'I'm overwhelmed – honoured, chuffed, delighted and more than humble – not many people can claim that an island is named after them!'

Want to reach an international audience interested in the Polar Regions? Would your business be willing to sponsor an issue of Polar Bytes? We are looking for Executive Friends who wish to support our work. Please contact Celene Pickard for more information (FriendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk).

From the Institute

A few words from the Director, Julian Dowdeswell (director@spri.cam.ac.uk)

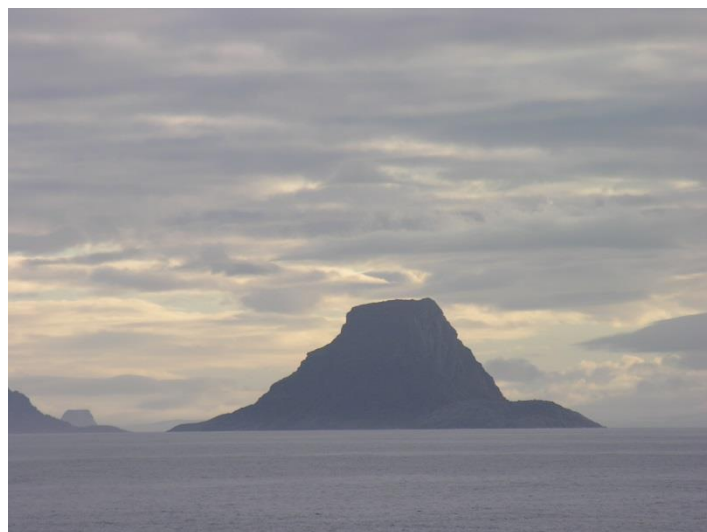
I have just returned from three weeks in Svalbard, and recorded my furthest ever north, at 81° 45'N in the Arctic Ocean north of Kvitoya - the isolated and most easterly island of the archipelago close to the marine boundary



The Norwegian research vessel *Helmer Hanssen* leaving the quay at Longyearbyen in Svalbard (Photo: © J.A. Dowdeswell)

between Norway and Russia (and the site of the last camp of Salomon Andrée's fateful balloon expedition to the North Pole in 1897). I was on a geophysical cruise of the British research vessel *James Clark Ross* to the waters north-east of Svalbard in 2006 when we were restricted in access to the Arctic Ocean by an extensive sea-ice cover. This year the sea-ice margin was over 200 km further north, and we saw no sea ice at all. This lack of sea ice is in line with the huge decline in summer ice cover in the Arctic which

has been recorded by satellite imagery over the past forty years or so. The scientific work we undertook, in collaboration with Dr Riko Noormets of the University Centre on Svalbard (and a former Post-Doctoral Research Associate at SPRI), concerned the reconstruction of past ice-sheet flow northward from Svalbard. The ship was the Norwegian research vessel *Helmer Hanssen* (named after one of Amundsen's colleagues on his successful expedition to the South Pole just over a century ago) which is equipped with a suite of tools for the acquisition of geophysical data and geological samples. We collected both acoustic data on the stratigraphy of the sea-floor sediments and debris samples to date these deposits and, hence, the timing of past ice advance northward from Svalbard.



The most northerly island of the Svalbard archipelago, Russoya to the north of Nordaustlandet (Photo: © J.A. Dowdeswell)

Our student representative writes:

Hello, my name is Katie Walter and I am a student at Hull University studying Mechanical Engineering. I am very excited to be asked to take up the position of Student Representative. My aim over the next year is to encourage more students to join the organisation and also to help with setting up societies in a few key universities. As 2014 marks the centenary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's *Endurance* Expedition setting out for Antarctica, I am aiming to organize a student event to inform students on the History of Antarctica and Shackleton.

Our new student membership category costs just £5 per year.

Invitation to Friends in Kent and beyond – change of date

Philippa Davies has kindly offered to host a fund-raising afternoon event at her home in Canterbury **on 17 November** from 12 noon to 5pm. This will be an opportunity to view the model of Scott's *Discovery*, which Philippa recently commissioned from expert model-maker Will Mowll. Both Will and Ann Shirley Savours will give presentations about the ship. A buffet lunch and afternoon tea will be included in the ticket price.

Booking Required – places are limited

Tickets £25 per person from friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk by 5 November

Friends' Christmas Card

Christmas cards featuring this stunning image of Jennifer Murray's helicopter perched on an iceberg will again be available for sale at the AGM and by mail order from Celene (friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk)

Price list:

1 card	£1.00	30 cards	£25.50
10 cards	£9.00	40 cards	£34.00
20 cards	£17.00	50 cards	£42.50



Iceberg: Antarctic Peninsula off the coast of Vernadsky. Bell Helicopter N407PF piloted by Jennifer Murray and Colin Bodill (Photo: Bruce Laurin)

AGM 2013

Notice of motion

The Committee has received a notice of motion intended to alter our Constitution to make the operation of our Committee more appropriate to current circumstances. Please see the ballot form enclosed. The changes relate to:

- Amending the rules for Committee membership to enable retiring members to stand for re-election for a second four year term.
- Amending the Constitution to include the regulations governing appointment of the Treasurer and Student representative
- Giving the Committee power to appoint an additional temporary Bank Signatory if there are unfilled Office-bearer posts.
- Clarifying the operation of a postal ballot.

Polar eBytes

If you haven't already added your name to our email list, please let Celene Pickard have details: friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk. You can also choose to receive future issues of Polar Bytes via email (particularly helpful in reducing the cost of postage for overseas members) and also sign up for the Polar Museum's monthly e-newsletter.

Anyone wishing to stand for election to the committee should complete the enclosed nomination form and return it no later than 1 November 2013.

Meet the Team



Bryan Lintott, the Polar Museum's Exhibitions Officer has kindly agreed to host the Friends' Saturday Lecture programme. Bryan is working part time on a doctorate on Antarctic heritage.

Bryan arrived at SPRI from New Zealand in 2008, to undertake research for his PhD into 'Scott's and Shackleton's Huts: Antarctic Heritage, International Relations'. He rapidly became a Polar Museum volunteer, utilising his professional background as a curator and museum director and subsequently joined the staff. As the museum's Exhibitions Officer he has overseen exhibitions on the BGLE, Amundsen, *Captain Scott: A Century On* and, with Dr John Ash, produced *Frozen Worlds*. His current projects include an exhibition on

the artwork of Operation Deep Freeze 1, opening in 2015; developing plans to manage historical and scientific research associated with the 1912 Mount Erebus campsites and assisting with the upcoming Shackleton Centenary. Bryan is an expert member of the ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC) and the ICOMOS International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP), focusing on the use of robotics in post-disaster heritage responses. He has an ongoing interest in the development of heritage protection in extreme environments and has spoken at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum on 'Antarctica and Apollo', utilising the lessons learnt in Antarctic heritage for the conservation of sites on the Moon and beyond. He is a keen supporter of the Friends of SPRI.

A note from the Membership Secretary, Ann Bean

Any enquiries about membership (including subscription rates and renewals) should be sent to Ann Bean (friendsofspri@aol.com). May we ask you please to keep us informed of any changes to your postal or email addresses? Polar Museum volunteers are entitled to a discounted rate of £15 for single membership for their first year.

NEW FRIENDS

Membership currently stands at 638. A very warm welcome is extended to all new members.

PASSING FRIENDS

We are sad to note the passing of Miss B M Norgain.

Calling all descendants of the men of Shackleton's expeditions

If you haven't already added your name to our database of descendants, please let Celene Pickard have your details by email at friendsPA@spri.cam.ac.uk or by post at SPRI. Please include a note of your relationship to the member of the expedition and feel free to pass this request on to others who may be interested.

Dates for your Diary:

SPRI Events	Date:	Time:	Location:
Exhibition: Landscapes of Exploration: BAS Artists in Residence	Until 16 Nov 2013	10am -4pm (Tues -Sat)	Polar Museum
Michaelmas Term Lecture 1 Bob Headland <i>Exotic terrestrial mammals in Antarctic regions</i> Joint event with the South Georgia Association	Saturday 12 Oct 2013	7:30pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre
Exhibition: Magadan: the people and the place – photos from Siberia	From 3 Dec 2013	10am -4pm (Tues -Sat)	Polar Museum
Michaelmas Term Lecture 2 John Dudeney <i>Operation Tabarin</i>	Saturday 26 Oct 2013	7:30pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre
Annual General Meeting and Michaelmas Term Lecture 3 Robert Burton <i>What if Shackleton had landed? Would he have got across Antarctica?</i>	Saturday 9 Nov 2013	Doors 3:30 pm Lecture 4-5pm AGM 5:15-6pm Buffet 6pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre Booking form attached
Michaelmas Term Lecture 4 Rod Arnold <i>BAS Aviation</i>	Saturday 23 Nov 2013	7:30pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre
Study Day Magadan: art, people, politics	Saturday 25 Jan 2014	10:30am -3pm	Ticketed event (£15 / Friends £10)
Lent Term Lecture 1 Dr Charles Swithinbank, Prof Peter Wadhams and Dr Nick Hughes <i>Submarines in the Arctic: four decades of pack ice and the Royal Navy</i>	Saturday 22 Feb 2014	7:30pm	SPRI Lecture Theatre
Lent Term Lecture 2 Caroline Walker <i>MacDonald Gill</i>	Saturday 22 Mar 2014	10:30am -3pm	Ticketed event (£15 / Friends £10)
Other Polar events of interest			
13th Ernest Shackleton Autumn School	25-28 Oct 2013		Athy Museum and Heritage Centre, Ireland
Visit to view the model of Scott's <i>Discovery</i> , Canterbury (see details above)	17 Nov 2013	12 - 5pm	Ticket holders only £25
Please see http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/friends/ for further details			

Further information on the Lectures is available at <http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/friends/events/lectures/>