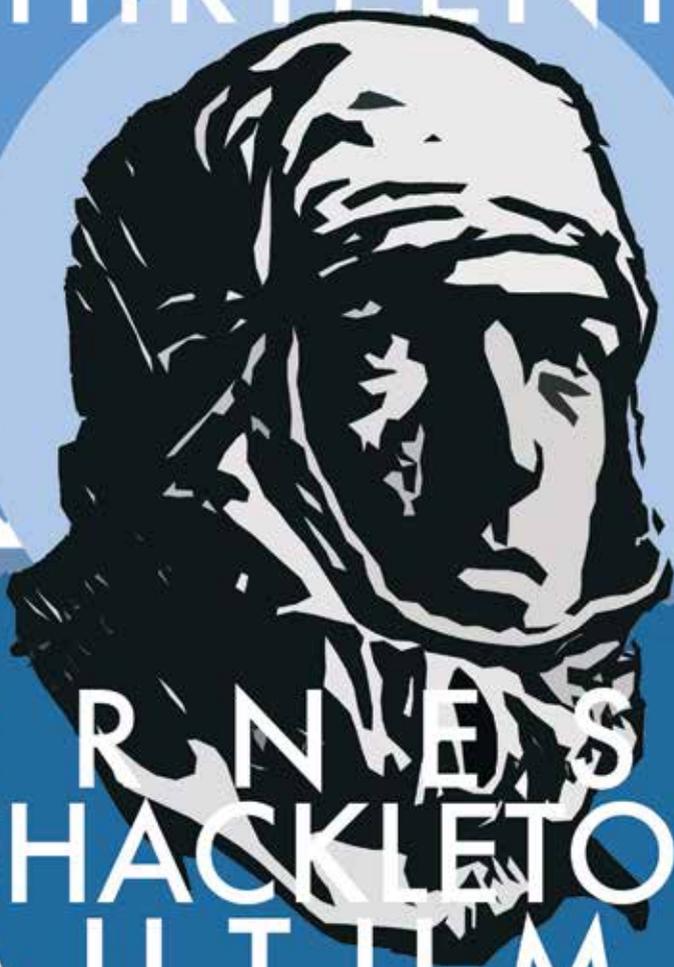


ATHY HERITAGE CENTRE-MUSEUM PRESENTS

T H E
THIRTEENTH



E R N E S T
SHACKLETON
A U T U M N
S C H O O L

25th-28th October 2013

Lectures - Exhibitions - Film - Excursion



Sir Ernest Shackleton

Born close to the village of Kilkea, between Castledermot and Athy, in the south of County Kildare in 1874, Ernest Shackleton is renowned for his courage, his commitment to the welfare of his comrades, and his immense contribution to exploration and geographical discovery. The Shackleton family first came to south Kildare in the early years of the eighteenth century. Ernest's Quaker forefather, Abraham Shackleton, established a multi-denominational school in the village of Ballitore. This school was to educate such notable figures as Napper Tandy, Edmund Burke, Cardinal Paul Cullen and Shackleton's great aunt, the Quaker writer, Mary Leadbeater. Apart from their involvement in education, the extended family was also deeply involved in the business and farming life of south Kildare.

Having gone to sea as a teenager, Shackleton joined Captain Scott's Discovery expedition (1901 – 1904) and, in time, was to lead three of his own expeditions to the Antarctic. His Endurance expedition (1914 – 1916) has become known as one of the great epics of human survival. He died in 1922, at South Georgia, on his fourth expedition to the Antarctic, and – on his wife's instructions – was buried there.

Athy Heritage Centre-Museum

Athy Heritage Centre-Museum was established to celebrate the history of the area. It houses material and audio-visual programmes that chronicle the ancient, medieval and post 16th century lives and achievements of the people of the town and its hinterland.

Athy Heritage Centre is home to the only permanent exhibition anywhere devoted to Ernest Shackleton. Highlights include an original sledge and harness from his Antarctic expeditions, a 15-foot model of Shackleton's ship Endurance, an exhibition of unique Shackleton family photographs and an audio-visual display featuring Frank Hurley's film footage of the Endurance expedition.

The Centre also houses material on the Great War and its effects on Athy; and the Gordon-Bennett race, which is celebrated annually in the town.

Highlight of the year, at the Centre, is the Shackleton Autumn School, the only Polar School in Ireland, which was established to commemorate the explorer in the county of his birth. It provides a forum for discussion and debate on polar exploration and the presentation of artistic works relevant to Shackleton and his time.



FRIDAY 25th October

7.30pm Wine Reception followed by Official Opening

Official Opening & Exhibition Launch

by the

**Australian Ambassador to Ireland,
Her Excellency Dr Ruth Adler**

8.00pm

in Athy Heritage Centre-Museum

Daily Exhibitions

**10.00am - 5.00pm
Athy Heritage Centre - Museum**

Mawson's Men

On display for the first time in Ireland the exhibition gives a rare glimpse into the daily lives of the men of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (1911-1914) led by Sir Douglas Mawson.

The exhibition showcases the lives of the 32 men who took part in the Expedition which set out to investigate a section of the 'practically unknown Antarctic coast' and conduct numerous scientific studies. The exhibition features photographs taken by some of the expeditioners: Frank Hurley, Xavier Mertz, who died during the expedition, and Frederick Gillies. Mawson's first experience of Antarctica was as member of the scientific team on Shackleton's Nimrod expedition (1907-1909), where he was part of the three man team to reach the magnetic South Pole.

The Exhibition was produced by the Australian Antarctic Division of the Australian Government, which is responsible for 'Advancement of Australia's strategic, scientific, environmental and economic interests in the Antarctic by protecting administering and researching the region.'



Antarctic Adventurers

The Antarctic adventurers will recreate a three man sledging party from the early years of Antarctic exploration.

SATURDAY 26th October

Lecture Series

Athy Library

- 10.30am** "Hoosh, Roast Penguin, Scurvy day, and other Stores of Antarctic Cuisine"
Jason Anthony Admission €10
- 11.30am** Tea / Coffee
- 12.00noon** "Geopolitics in the Freezer: Current and Future Challenges Facing Antarctica"
Professor Klaus Dodds Admission €10
- 1.00pm** LUNCH
- 2.15pm** "Sea Ice and Shackleton's Expeditions"
Professor Peter Wadhams Admission €10
- 3.15pm** "Icebreakers"
A series of short presentations on topics relevant to the Shackleton Autumn School, presented by those with a passion for their subject. Admission Free
- 4.15pm** Tea / Coffee
- 4.30pm** "The Franklin Expedition – Did they try to Sail Home"
Dr Maria Pia Casarini Admission €10
- Dinner** **Clanard Court Hotel, Athy**
- 8.00pm** Autumn School Dinner Tickets €40

SUNDAY 27th October

Lecture Series

Athy Library

- 10.00am** "Polar Otherworlds: Dreams and Ghosts in Arctic Exploration"
Dr Shane McCorristine Admission €10
- 10.50am** Tea / Coffee

- 11.10am** "Sixty Years on Ice"
Dr Charles Swithinbank Admission €10
- 12.10pm** "They Also Served: A Look at the Hundreds of Participants of the Heroic Age Behind the Familiar Names"
Joan Boothe Admission €10
- 1.00pm** LUNCH
- Film** **Athy Library**
- 2.30pm** "Bare et Liv"
The film, a Norwegian/Soviet co-production, made in 1968 is a dramatised account of the life of the Norwegian Polar Explorer and Humanitarian Fridtjof Nansen Presented by Geir O. Kløver Admission €10
- Lecture Series** **Athy Library**
- 4.30pm** Open forum - Chaired by Bob Headland Admission Free
- Drama** **Athy Community Arts Centre**
- 8.00pm** "Redemption Song"
Redemption Song is a beautiful play - hilariously funny and heartbreakingly sad. Joe is a small-time builder. Joe's marriage to Mary has broken up and their son has been executed. Work and music have been Joe's answer to every problem life has thrown at him. And then, one evening, two young men call to his door with stunning news - they've given a lift to a hitch-hiker and they swear the man is Joe's dead son. Everything changes.
Written and performed by John MacKenna Directed by Marian Brophy. Admission €10

MONDAY 28th October

Field Trip

Assemble at the Heritage Centre - Museum

- 10.00am** Bus tour through Shackleton country.
A Visit to Ballitore and the home of Mary Leadbeater, writer and ancestor of Ernest Shackleton and the Quaker Meeting House. Fare €10

INFORMATION ON CONTRIBUTORS

Jason Anthony

Jason is the author of *Hoosh: Roast Penguin, Scurvy Day and Other Stories of Antarctic Cuisine* published by the University of Nebraska Press. The book has recently received an award from the Andre Simon Food and Drink Book Award. Prior to this he worked with the United States Antarctic Program for eight austral summers. He is currently teaching in Maine.

Professor Klaus Dodds

Klaus is Professor of Geopolitics at Royal Holloway, University of London. In 2005 he received the Phillip Leverhulme Prize for his work in the field of Geopolitics and Human Geography and is the Editor of *The Geographical Journal*. He is an expert in the area of international governance of the Antarctic and the Arctic. His publications include *The Antarctic: A Very Short Introduction* and *Pink Ice: Britain and the South Atlantic Empire*. He is working on a new book with Mark Nuttall entitled *A Scramble for the Poles? The Contemporary Geopolitics of the Arctic and Antarctic*.

Professor Peter Wadhams

Currently Professor of Ocean Physics in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, University of Cambridge, Peter has a long association with the polar regions. He spent 11 months on the "Hudson-70" Expedition which accomplished the first circumnavigation of the Americas, He has led over 40 polar field expeditions including a project mapping the thickness of sea ice in the Arctic from submarines. He has published extensively on sea ice in academic journals.

Dr Maria Pia Casarini

Since 2011 Maria has been Director of the Istituto Geografico Polare "Silvio Zavatti", founded in 1944 and based in Fermo, Central Italy. This is the only Italian polar institute, and comprises a polar Museum, the largest polar library in Italy, and publishes the only Italian polar journal, *Il Polo*. A leading researcher on the Franklin expedition she has lectured extensively on the subject. She has taken part in 8 polar expeditions, 2 to the Weddell Sea in Antarctica and 6 to the Arctic, for scientific, historical and archaeological purposes. She is a Member of the Society of Woman Geographers, and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Dr Shane McCorristine

A native of Dublin, Shane is a cultural geographer and historian who lectures at Downing College, University of Cambridge. He published in 2010 *Spectres of the Self; Thinking about Ghosts and Ghost-Seeing in England, 1750-1920*. He has applied this interest in the supernatural to an ongoing study of its influence in the narrative of nineteenth century Arctic exploration and he has been recently shortlisted for the AHRC/BBC Radio 3 Next Generation Thinkers Award.

Dr Charles Swithinbank

Charles is a world renowned scientist who has worked extensively in the polar regions with UK, US and Russian research programmes. He was assistant Glaciologist on the 1949-52 Norwegian-British-Swedish Expedition and was instrumental in recognising the potential of Antarctica's blue-ice fields as wheeled aircraft runways. He has published a number of books on his polar work including *An Alien in Antarctica*, *Vodka on Ice*, *Foothold on Antarctica* and *Forty Years on Ice*. Six geographic features in Antarctica are named after him. He has been twice honoured by Queen Elizabeth.

Joan Boothe

Based in San Francisco, Joan has an MBA in Finance and from 1990 to 2000 was an adjunct faculty member at St Mary's College in Moraga, California. In the spring of 2010 she taught a course at Stanford University on the history of Antarctica's Heroic Age. In 2011 her critically acclaimed book *The Storied Ice: Exploration, Discovery and Adventure in the Antarctic Peninsula* was published. She is currently researching her next book on all the men who served in Antarctica in the Heroic Age.

Geir O. Kløver

Geir has been the director of the Fram Museum in Oslo since 2005. He has edited and published the diaries of Roald Amundsen and 14 of the other crew members of the Norwegian South Pole Expedition 1910-12. He is currently editing the collected diaries of Fridtjof Nansen and the crew members of the First Fram Expedition. From 1997 to 2005, Geir worked as project director in a Norwegian human rights NGO providing media and communication support to Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. He worked primarily on projects related to Tibet, Burma, East Timor, the Korean peninsula and the AIDS issue.

Bob Headland

Bob is a senior research associate of the Scott Polar Research Institute of the University of Cambridge. He specialises in the history and geography of both polar regions. His work with the Antarctic Heritage Trust involves the preservation of the historical huts and other aspects associated with the exploration of Antarctica. His most recent publication is *A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration*.

John MacKenna

John is a novelist, short-story writer and dramatist and co-author of *Shackleton – An Irishman in Antarctica* published in 2003 which gave a new insight into the family background of one of Kildare's most famous sons. His most recent book is a poetry collection *Where Sadness Begins* published by Salmon Books in 2012.

Antarctic Adventurers

The Antarctic Adventures are a group of British re-enactors who specialise in recreating the world of Shackleton, Scott and Amundsen. They perform regularly for museums and English Heritage. They recreate a three man sledging party of the 1901 – 1913 period with clothing, sledges and equipment of the time used by Scott and Shackleton.



Mary Leadbeater's House in Ballitore part of the Field trip on Monday.



Antarctic Adventurers appearing during the Shackleton Autumn School



Scale model of the Endurance in Athy Heritage Centre - Museum



“Nimrod” Vol 7

will be on sale with back issues of
Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

The Ernest Shackleton Autumn School

is a project of Athy Heritage Centre - Museum.

For information and booking contact:

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum,

and Tourist Information Point,

Town Hall, Emily Square, Athy, Co. Kildare.

Tel: 059 - 8633075. Fax: 059 - 8633076.

Email: athyheritage@eircom.net

Websites: www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie, www.shackletonmuseum.com

ALL EVENTS INCLUSIVE FEE

Full Autumn School: €120

Lectures: €10, student/unwaged/OAP: €8

The Heritage Centre - Museum and its Shackleton School team would like to thank our funding bodies and sponsors whose support makes this event possible. These include Athy International Concentrate, Australian Antarctic Division, Fáilte Ireland, Australian Embassy in Ireland, US Embassy Dublin, Kildare County Library Service.



Athy International Concentrates



Fáilte Ireland



Australian Embassy Ireland



US Embassy Ireland



Athy Town Council



Kildare County Council