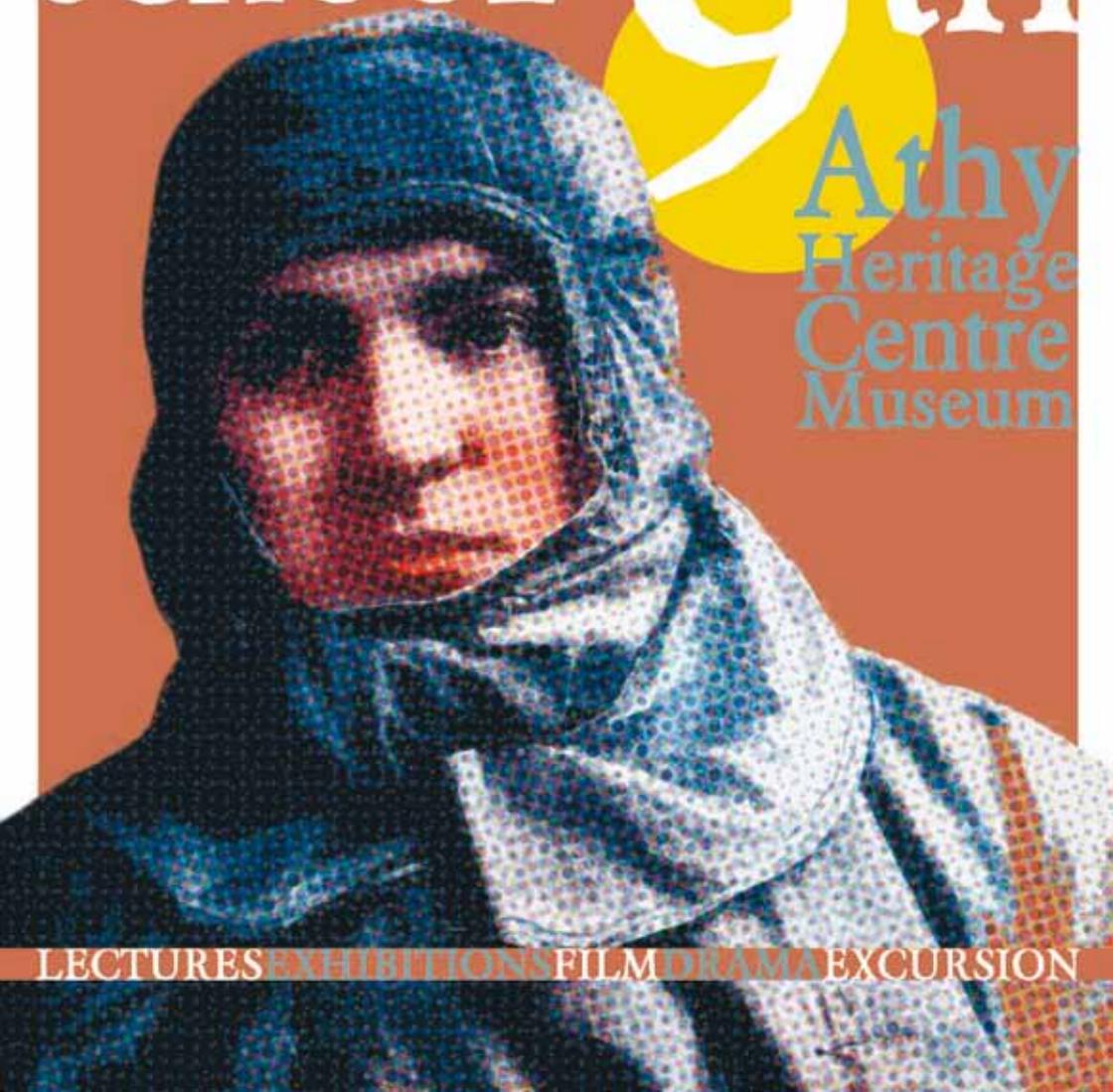


23rd-26th October 2009

ERNEST  
SHACKLETON  
AUTUMN  
SCHOOL

9th

Athy  
Heritage  
Centre  
Museum



LECTURES EXHIBITIONS FILM DRAMA 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 was established to celebrate the vibrant socio-historic legacy 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; the industrial and social effects of the canal in Athy life; information on the Gordon-Bennett race, which is celebrated annually in the town, and a wide range of seasonal exhibitions which reflect life past and present in this vibrant community.

Highlight of the year, at the Centre, is the Shackleton Autumn School, 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.



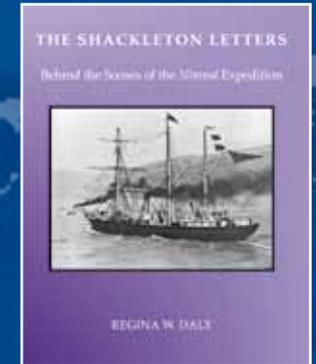
FRIDAY 23rd October

## Official Opening & Book Launch

7.30pm in Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

In association with the Erskine Press the school will host the launch of Regina Daly's book

*'The Shackleton Letters: Behind the Scenes of the Nimrod Expedition.'*



## Shackleton Memorial Lecture

by Caroline Casey

8.15pm in Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

*The founder and CEO of Kanchi (formerly known as The Aisling Foundation) Caroline is one the most dynamic people in Irish life today. She founded Kanchi to develop a unique and creative approach in facilitating the integration of people with disabilities into the workplace. The O<sub>2</sub> Ability Awards were established by Kanchi to recognise those business's which have made the most progress in this area. Caroline's achievements have been recognised at home and abroad. She was the first Irish person to be appointed a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum in 2006 and was awarded an honorary doctorate from NUI Ireland in the same year. In 2006 she also became the first Ashoka fellow from Ireland and the UK and received the Eisenhower Fellowship. In 2007, Caroline was invited to the World Economic Forum in Davos, where she presented on a variety of issues relating to the area of disability.*



Caroline Casey

## SATURDAY 24th October

### Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

- 10.30am *"Captain C.A. Larsen – Antarctic Pioneer"*  
Hans Kjell Larsen Admission €7
- 12noon *"The Gates of Hell: the Franklin Expedition, Science and Cannibalism"*  
Prof Andrew Lambert Admission €7
- 2.30pm *"Nimrod Illustrated: Pictures from Lieutenant Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition"*  
Dr David Wilson Admission €7
- 4.00pm *"Those wrecked or stranded ships": Unresolved aspects of the Franklin Expedition*  
Dr Russell Potter Admission €7

### Dinner

Clanard Court Hotel, Athy

- 8.00pm *Autumn School Dinner* Tickets €40

## SUNDAY 25th October

### Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

- 10.30am *"The Great Books of Shackletonia"*  
Dr Michael Rosove Admission €7
- 12 noon *"The Way of the Explorer"*  
Lady Marie Herbert Admission €7

### Film

- 2.30pm *"PRESUMED LOST": Some Early 'Polar' Films (1901-1950).*  
A selection of unusual, and long forgotten, short silent films and original footage from polar expeditions.  
Hosted by Dr Huw Lewis-Jones and Professor Russell Potter  
Admission €7

### Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

- 4.30pm *Open Forum*  
Chaired by Bob Headland Admission free

## SUNDAY 25th October

### Drama

- 9.00pm *"We Once Sang Like Other Men"*  
For Peter, memory steps off a bus in the form of a young woman – bringing with her the things he needs to remember and the things he has tried to forget. 'We Once Sang Like Other Men' is a new play from the writing and directing team that brought 'Who By Fire' and 'Corner Boys' to packed houses across the country. It's a play about a middle-aged man and a young woman who shared a past and now must deal with the present. A beautiful retelling of an age old story, it is a tender, challenging, chilling, provocative tale of one man's search for salvation among the uncertainty of contemporary life.  
Written by John MacKenna, directed by Marian Brophy.  
Performed by Mend and Makedo Theatre Company  
Admission €12

## MONDAY 26th October

### Field Trip

Assemble at the Heritage Centre - Museum

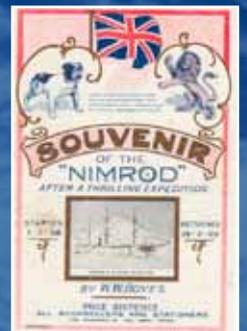
- 10.00am *Bus tour through Shackleton country. A Visit to Ballitore and the home of Mary Leadbeater, writer and ancestor of Ernest Shackleton, the Quaker Meeting House and the Shaker Store.*  
Fare €10

### Daily Exhibitions

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

- 10 – 5 *Nimrod – The British Antarctic Expedition 1907-1909*

This exhibition tells the story of the first expedition led by Ernest Shackleton to the Antarctic. It will feature artifacts on loan from institutions and private collection from all over the world, many never before on display in Ireland. Amongst the items on display visitors can see an original copy of the book 'Aurora Australis', the first book to be printed in the Antarctic, together with examples of the equipment used by Shackleton and his men.



#### Antarctic Adventurers

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

# CONTRIBUTORS

*Regina Daly*

*After a career in the New York State government her interest in the life of Ernest Shackleton encouraged her to pursue research into his life which has culminated in the publication of her book 'The Shackleton Letters: Behind the Scenes of the Nimrod Expedition'. In tandem with her interest in polar history she has regularly published articles about local history and nineteenth century American Heroes*

*Hans Kjell Larsen*

*Hans-Kjell Larsen is grandson of the Antarctic pioneer Captain C. A. Larsen. An Architect by profession, his passion for "forgotten" Norwegian Antarctic pioneers led him to found the Captain C A Larsen Memorial Foundation (1984), Antarctic Forum (1995), and Øyas Venner (Friends of South Georgia). He has been instrumental in placing memorials for Captain C A Larsen at his birthplace in Larvik and a bust inside the Whaler's Church in Grytviken, South Georgia. Through the Antarctic Forum he has placed memorial plaques on the graves of the "Antarctic" pioneers from the Cape Adare-landing in the Ross Sea (1895); Captain Leonard Kristensen (1995) and Henrik Johan Bull (1996).*

*Professor Andrew Lambert*

*Currently the Laughton Professor of Naval history in the Department of War Studies at Kings College London, Andrew is one of the pre-eminent Naval historians of his generation. His work deals with naval and strategic history between the Napoleonic wars and the First World War. A frequent contributor to television he wrote and produced the BBC series 'The War at Sea' in 2004. He is also the author of a number of acclaimed books including 'Nelson: Britannia's God of War, 'Admirals: The Naval Commanders who made Britain Great' and his recently published 'Franklin: Tragic Hero of Polar Navigation'.*

*Dr David Wilson*

*The grand-nephew of Dr Edward Wilson, who perished with Captain Scott's polar party, David has a long association with polar matters. The author of a number of books, his most recent is 'Nimrod Illustrated: Pictures from Lieutenant Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition'. He makes frequent trips to the Antarctic as a historian and ornithological field guide and he recently retired as Chairman of the Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute. He is currently working on a number of publications relating to Captain Scott's 'Terra Nova' expedition.*

*Dr Russell Potter*

*Professor of English at Rhode Island College, USA Russell is one of the world's leading authorities on the Franklin Expedition. His ongoing research is detailed on his website 'Visions of the North'. He is the editor of the 'Arctic Book Review' and he published in 2007 'Arctic Spectacles: The Frozen North in Visual Culture, 1818-1875' a ground breaking work on the the nineteenth century obsession with the Arctic. His work also featured in the recent television documentary 'Arctic Passage- Prisoners of the Ice'.*

*Dr Michael Rosove*

*A professor of medicine at University of California, Los Angeles, Michael has pursued his fascination with the Antarctic over the last 30 years with numerous trips south. He is the*

*author of a number of acclaimed publications on aspects of Antarctic history such as 'Let Heroes Speak – Antarctic Explorers 1772-1922' His most recent books have included 'Rejoice My Heart' an account of Emily Shackleton's correspondence with Shackleton's biographer, H.R. Mill, and a Supplement to his 2001 bibliography 'Antarctica, 1772-1922; Freestanding Publications Through 1999' now regarded as the definitive book on the subject.*

*Lady Marie Herbert*

*Dublin born Lady Marie Herbert has had a remarkable life as a traveller and writer. In 1971, with her husband Sir Wally Herbert and their infant daughter Kari, she spent two years with the Inuit in N.W. Greenland, writing 'The Snow People'. She went on to winter with the Sami in Finnmark, joining them on the annual reindeer migration from the mountains to the coast. Further travels amongst indigenous peoples resulted in more books - a career as a counsellor, public speaker, seminar leader and guide in wilderness rites of passage.*

*Dr Huw Lewis-Jones*

*Huw is a historian and Curator of Art at the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge. Formerly Visiting Fellow at Harvard University and Curator of Imperial and Maritime History at the National Maritime Museum, London, Huw was research curator of the FREEZE FRAME historic photography project. His book 'Face to Face: Polar Portraits' was released to critical acclaim last year and has recently been published in a number of foreign languages. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Huw is currently building a national collection of Inuit art, whilst also working on a number of new book projects.*

*Bob Headland*

*Bob is a senior research associate at 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 the discovery of the Antarctic. He published early this year his latest book 'A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration. A Synopsis of Events and Activities from the Earliest Times until the International Polar Years, 2007-09'*

*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 'The Space Between Us' was published this year.*

*Mend & Makedo*

*An Athy based theatre company, founded in 1982, and specialising in new theatrical work. Most recent production are Corner Boys (2008); My Father's Life (2007) and Who By Fire (in conjunction with Water to Wine Theatre Co (2006)*

*The 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.*



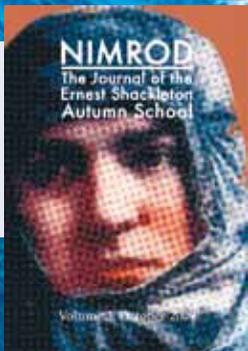
Mary Leadbeater's House in Ballitore part of the Field trip on Monday.



Antarctic Adventurers appearing during the Shackleton Autumn School



Scale model of the Endurance in Athy Heritage Centre - Museum



## "Nimrod" Vol 3

will be on sale with back issues of  
Volumes 1 & 2

# 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](mailto:athyheritage@eircom.net)

Websites: [www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie](http://www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie), [www.shackletonmuseum.com](http://www.shackletonmuseum.com)

**ALL EVENTS INCLUSIVE FEE**

Full Autumn School: €95

Lectures: €7, student/unwaged/OAP: €4

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 Tegral, Athy Credit Union Ltd., Diageo Ireland (Celebrating 250 years of Guinness), Athy Town Council, The Heritage Council, Athy Chamber of Commerce, Athy Library and Kildare County Council.