

**Athy Heritage Centre - Museum**



*presents*



**The 8th  
ERNEST  
SHACKLETON  
AUTUMN SCHOOL**

**24th -27th Oct., 2008**

***Lectures • Exhibitions • Film • Music • Excursion***

## Sir Ernest Shackleton

Born close to the village of Killea, 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, 24TH OCTOBER

## Official Opening of Shackleton School & Exhibition - 'Face to Face: Polar Portraits'

7.30pm in Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

### Daily Exhibitions

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

10.00 am  
to  
5.00 pm

### Face to Face: Polar Portraits -

This touring exhibition, exclusive in Ireland to Athy, features a selection of 50 portraits alongside some unique polar camera equipment from the museum of the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge. The exhibition will travel later in the year to the Explorers Club in New York and the Royal Geographical Society, London.



**Ernest Shackleton Exhibition** – includes a scale model of the Endurance, artifacts relating to Shackleton's expeditions and his Quaker ancestry and an audio-visual display

**Antarctic Adventurers** – the Antarctic adventures will recreate a sledging party from the early years of Antarctic exploration.

**"Nimrod"** - The second volume of "Nimrod", the journal of the Ernest Shackleton Autumn School, will be launched on Friday evening.

## SATURDAY, 25TH OCTOBER

### Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre – Museum

- 10.30am “Shackleton and Chile”  
Jim McAdam  
Admission €5
- 12 noon “The Hero’s Heart – the women behind Polar Exploration”  
Kari Herbert  
Admission €5
- 2.30pm “The Royal Navy and Polar Exploration”  
E. C. Coleman  
Admission €5
- 4.00pm “Antarctic Destinies – Scott, Shackleton and the changing face of heroism”  
Stephanie Barczewski  
Admission €5

### Dinner

Clanard Court Hotel, Athy

- 8.00pm Autumn School Dinner  
Admission €35

## SUNDAY, 26TH OCTOBER

### Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre – Museum

- 10.30am “Freeze Frame – Historic Polar Photography”  
Huw Lewis-Jones  
Admission €5
- 12 noon “The SS Terra Nova (1884-1943) and other polar exploration ships of the ‘heroic age.’”  
Mike Tarver  
Admission €5

## SUNDAY, 26TH OCTOBER

### Film

Athy Heritage Centre – Museum

- 2.30pm “Foothold on Antarctica” & “Antarctic Crossing”  
These two films chart the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition from its landfall in the Antarctic in 1955 to its eventual successful crossing of Antarctica in 1958. The expedition, led by Sir Vivian Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary completed the crossing which Ernest Shackleton had hoped to pioneer.  
Introduced by Peter Fuchs.  
Admission €5
- 4.00pm Open forum chaired by Bob Headland

### Music

Athy Library

- 9.00pm “Ernest Shackleton, his life story in song”  
Performed by Cliff Wedgebury. The performance includes Cliff’s own composition ‘The Ballad of Ernest Shackleton’ and ‘The Ballad of Tom Crean’.  
Admission €10

## MONDAY, 27TH 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.  
Admission €5



# FACE TO FACE - "POLAR PORTRAITS"



This travelling exhibition from the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge focuses on a selection of Polar portraits from some of the most important visual records of International Polar Exploration over the last 150 years.

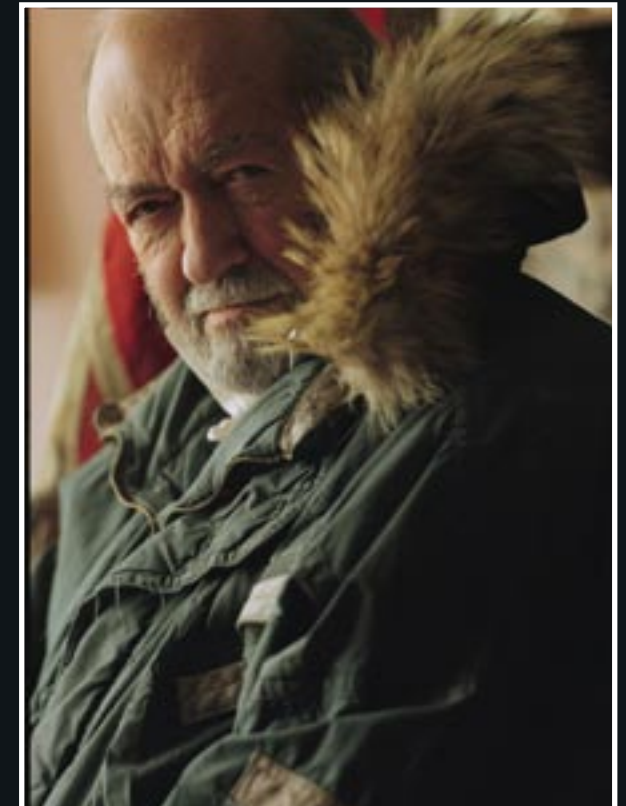


the men and women of many nations, exploring, working, living in the Polar regions today.

The exhibition also features a unique collection of historic photographic equipment such as cameras owned by Captain Scott, Herbert Ponting, Sir Wally Herbert and Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

Face to Face, features the very first Polar photographs, the first portrait of the explorers and some of the earliest photographs of the Polar regions and many Polar portraits which have never appeared in public before.

Alongside twenty-five of the worlds finest historic Polar portraits from the Scott Polar Research Institute collections are twenty-five modern day images by leading expedition photographer, Martin Hartley who has captured





All images from the exhibition 'Face to Face' are reproduced here with the kind permission of the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge.



# CONTRIBUTORS

*Dr. Jim McAdam*

*Jim teaches at Queens University Belfast and is a research scientist with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland. He is the scientific advisor to the Falklands Island Government, and consultant to the UK Falklands Island Trust. He has visited the Falkland islands annually for the last 30 years and has published many scientific and public papers on the islands. He lectures extensively on the Falklands and has been editor of the Falklands Island Journal since 1991.*

*Kari Herbert*

*The daughter of distinguished polar explorer Sir Wally Herbert she is a travel writer and photographer, contributing regularly to newspapers and magazines. Her book "The Explorers Daughter" an account of the first few years of her life spent living on a remote island in the Arctic with the Polar Inuit of North West Greenland was published to much acclaim in 2004. Her new book "The Hero's Heart" telling the story of the women behind Polar Exploration will be published shortly.*

*E. C. Coleman*

*After 36 years service in the Royal Navy and having undertaken four Arctic expeditions, he has published two volumes on the Royal Navy and Polar Exploration which are now regarded as the definitive works on the subject. He continues his research into Polar history and is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.*

*Dr. Stephanie Barczewski*

*A specialist in modern British Cultural history she is currently a Professor of History at Clemson University in South Carolina USA. She is the author of a number of books including "Titanic - Night Remembered" and her most recent publication "Antarctic Destinies" which examines the evolution of the reputations of both Scott and Shackleton in the decades after their deaths.*

*Dr. Huw Lewis-Jones*

*Huw is Curator of art at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. He is also the curator for the "Freeze frame" digitization programme whereby all historical images in the archive of Scott Polar Research Institute will be digitized. He has just published 'Face to Face', an account of pioneering Polar photography and modern portraiture and is currently working on a book to produce the first comprehensive catalogue of Dr. Edward Wilson's artistic work on Scott's 'Discovery' and 'Terra Nova' expeditions.*

*Mike Tarver*

*His interest in polar regions began as a child, inspired by a memorial to polar exploration in Cardiff. Combined with his love of sailing he researched and*

*published 'The S.S. Terra Nova – From the Arctic to the Antarctic' a comprehensive history of Captain Scott's last ship. He is a vice president of the Captain Scott Society based in Cardiff, and a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.*

*Peter Fuchs*

*Peter Fuchs, son of Sir Vivian Fuchs, is a geologist by training, and now, after a thirty year career in the mining and minerals industries, manages the Fuchs Foundation which sends young teachers to the Polar Regions to undertake science projects, thereby inspiring their teaching. He has been to the Antarctic twice, Ross Ice Shelf and the Antarctic Peninsula, and has undertaken a three month post graduate diploma in Antarctic Studies from University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.*

*Dr. 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 the discovery of the Antarctic. He is due to publish shortly the updated and revised edition of his pioneering book "Chronological List of Antarctic Expeditions that relate to historical events".*

*Martin Hartley*

*Martin Hartley is an acclaimed photographer who specialises in documenting the most inaccessible parts of the planet. His work has been published worldwide in international press and journals. His recent commissions include The National Geographic Frankincense Trail (Yemen and Oman) and the Adventure Ecology Top of the World Trans-Arctic Expedition. His images of the men and women exploring and working in the Polar regions today appear in the recently published book 'Face to Face-Polar Portraits'.*

*Cliff Wedgebury*

*London born and now long term resident in Cork, poet, playwright, performance artist and broadcaster, he was first inspired by the Antarctic expeditions when as a 10 year old school boy he visited the research ship R.S.S. Discovery docked in London in 1956. He has written and released CDs of Antarctic ballads inspired by Scott, Shackleton and Crean amongst others.*

*Antarctic Adventurers*

*The Antarctic Adventures are a group of British actors who specialise in recreating the world of Shackleton, Scott and Amundsen. They perform regularly for museums and English heritage. They recreate a sledging party of the 1901 – 1913 period with clothing, sledges and equipment of the time deployed by Scott and Shackleton.*



Mary Leadbeaters 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

Children's drama and amateur workshops

Available from the Heritage Centre - Museum specially produced Bookmarks, Postcards and Limited Edition Posters based on the Centre's collection. Also a selection of books, DVD's, T-Shirts on sale.

## The Ernest Shackleton Autumn School

is a project of Athy Heritage Centre - Museum.

*For information and booking contact:*

**Athy Heritage Centre - Museum,**

Town Hall, Emily Square,

Athy, Co. Kildare.

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

Email: [athyheritage@eircom.net](mailto:athyheritage@eircom.net) Website: [www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie](http://www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie)

ALL EVENTS INCLUSIVE FEE

Full Autumn School which includes Dinner: €75

Admission to Lectures: €5. Student/Unwaged/OAP: €2

*The Heritage Centre - Museum and its Shackleton festival team would like to thank our funding bodies and sponsors whose support makes this event possible. These include Fáilte Ireland, Tegral Building Products Ltd., Diageo Ireland, Athy Town Council, Kildare County Council, Bank of Ireland, Athy, Carlton Abbey Hotel, Athy.*

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