

ATHY HERITAGE CENTRE-MUSEUM PRESENTS

THE TWELFTH

ERNEST

SHACKLETON

AUTUMN SCHOOL

26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Lectures - Exhibitions - Film - Music - 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, 26th October**

**7.00pm Wine Reception  
followed by Official Opening**

**Official Opening  
&  
Exhibition Launch**  
by the  
**President of Ireland,  
Michael D. Higgins**

7.45pm

in

**Athy Heritage Centre-Museum**



**Daily Exhibitions**

**10.00am - 5.00pm**

**Athy Heritage Centre - Museum**

***These Rough Notes – Scott’s Last Expedition***

The exhibition tells the story of Captain Robert Falcon’s Scott’s 1910-1913 Terra Nova expedition to the Antarctic. The exhibition text was developed by the Polar Museum (Cambridge) and is complemented by objects from the Polar Museum (Cambridge), Discovery Point (Dundee) and material from a number of private collections.

***Antarctic Adventurers***

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

## SATURDAY 27th October

### Lecture Series

Athy Library

**10.30am** "Endurance at South Georgia"  
*Robert Burton*

*Admission €8*

**11.30am** Tea / Coffee

**12.00noon** "Scott and Shackleton: Early Days, Rivalry, & Leadership"  
*Jan Piggott*

*Admission €8*

**1.00pm** LUNCH

**2.15pm** 'Mrs Shackleton and other polar wives'  
*Kari Herbert*

*Admission €8*

### Book Launch

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

**3.10pm** The Erskine Press will be launching its newest facsimile – *Antarctic Days – Sketches of the Homely Side of Polar Life* by Two of Shackleton's Men. Written and illustrated by James Murray and George Marston it gives a feeling for the personal side of Shackleton's Nimrod expedition. *This edition, with an introduction by Joe O'Farrell, will be limited to 280 numbered copies.*

### Lecture Series

Athy Library

**3.30pm** "Antarctica Today: the Scientific Legacy of the Heroic Age "  
*Gabrielle Walker*

*Admission €8*

**4.30pm** "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*

### Dinner

Clanard Court Hotel, Athy

**8.00pm** Autumn School Dinner

*Tickets €40*

## SUNDAY 28th October

### Lecture Series

Athy Library

**10.00am** "Douglas Mawson and the AAE: Science and Survival "  
*David Roberts*

*Admission €8*

**11.00am** Tea / Coffee

**11.15am** "Scott's Irishmen - The exploits of Crean, Forde, Keohane and McCarthy on Terra Nova and after"  
*Michael Smith*

*Admission €8*

## Lecture Series

Athy Library

**12.15pm** "Antarctic débâcle: Oberleutnant Wilhelm Filchner's expedition to the Weddell Sea, 1911-1912; differing versions of the allocation of blame "  
*William Barr* Admission €8

**1.00pm** LUNCH

## Film

Athy Library

**2.30pm** "Frank Wild: Antarctica's Forgotten Hero"  
The hour long documentary tells the story of Frank Wild, one of the unsung greats of polar exploration. The film also follows Frank Wild's ashes as they're taken to South Georgia to be laid to rest next to his great friend and companion, Sir Ernest Shackleton.  
*Presented by Paul Greenan* Admission €8

## Lecture Series

Athy Library

**4.00pm** Open forum - Chaired by Bob Headland Admission Free

## Cultural Evening

Athy Community Arts Centre

### *Photographic Exhibition - Opening*

**7.45pm** Faces from the Southern Oceans  
Ms. L'Heureux' photography conveys the sense of intimacy she experienced when she first encountered the wildlife that inhabit the Antarctic continent.

## Music

Athy Community Arts Centre

**8.30pm** "All's Well"  
An original composition, with songs inspired by the journals, letters and biographies of all five men of Captain Robert Falcon Scott's ill fated polar party which attempts to capture their thoughts and feelings as they realise their death is inevitable.  
*Written and performed by Jake Wilson* Admission €10

## MONDAY 29th 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

## Robert Burton

Robert Burton is a natural history writer who has been involved with South Georgia for many years. He visited the island for the first time in 1964 and returned in 1971 to study albatrosses and fur seals. From 1995 to 1998, he was director of the museum at Grytviken and started to collect information on the island's history. This included researching the time that Shackleton spent on South Georgia. Bob now visits annually as a lecturer on cruise ships.

## Dr Jan Piggott

Dr. Jan Piggott, F.S.A., studied English at Oxford and taught originally at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. More recently he taught at Dulwich College in London for thirty years, as Head of English. When he retired from teaching, he became Keeper of Archives at the College, custodian of the James Caird whaler and the Shackleton Collections. In 2000 he curated the exhibition 'Shackleton - the Antarctic and Endurance' at Dulwich College. On the committee of the James Caird Society, he founded their Journal, and wrote for it on Frank Wild and a number of other topics.

## Kari Herbert

The daughter of distinguished polar explorer Sir Wally Herbert, Kari 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 Northwest Greenland was published to much acclaim in 2004. Her new books *In Search of the South Pole* and *Polar Wives: The Remarkable Women behind the World's Most Daring Explorers* have just been published.

## Dr Gabrielle Walker

Gabrielle is Chief Scientist for the climate consultancy Xyntéo and a consultant to New Scientist. She contributes frequently to BBC Radio 4 presenting *The Planet Under Threat* and *Thin Air* series and is the author of a number of books including *Snowball Earth* and *An Ocean of Air – A Natural History of the Atmosphere*. She presented the *The Secret Life of Ice* on BBC 4 and her most recent publication is *Antarctica*.

## Dr William Barr

A Senior Research Associate at the Arctic Institute of North America, University of Calgary, William is also Professor Emeritus of Geography at the University of Saskatchewan. He has published widely on Arctic subjects and has been prominent in promoting the study of the Russian role in polar exploration. His most recent publications include *Arctic Hellship: The Voyage of HMS Enterprise 1850-1855* and *Arctic Scientist, Gulag Survivor: The biography of Mikhail Mikhailovich Ermolaev, 1901-1991*.

## Michael Smith

Michael Smith is an author and journalist who specialises in the history of Polar exploration. Michael began writing books in the late 1990s after more than 30 years as an award-winning journalist covering business and political issues for paper such as the Observer. His first book, *An*

*Unsung Hero – Tom Crean Antarctic Survivor* (2000) has never been out of print. His other books include *I Am Just Going Outside – Captain Oates*; *Sir James Wordie – Polar Crusader*; *Captain Francis Crozier – Last Man Standing?* and *Tom Crean – An Illustrated Life*. He has also written two books for children: *Shackleton – The Boss* and *Tom Crean – Iceman* which is on the curriculum for primary schools in Ireland

## David Roberts

David Roberts is a mountaineer and author of books and articles about climbing. He is particularly noted for his books *The Mountain of My Fear* and *Deborah: A Wilderness Narrative*. He also published books on polar themes including *Four Against the Arctic: Shipwrecked for Six Years at the Top of the World* and the forthcoming book about Douglas Mawson, titled *Alone on the Ice*, which will be published in January 2013.

## Paul Greenan

Paul Greenan is a producer/director with BBC Television. He's been with the BBC for 22 years and has a background in journalism and current affairs. Paul's worked on a variety of programmes for the BBC including natural history programmes for BBC TWO and documentaries for BBC FOUR. *Frank Wild: Antarctica's Forgotten Hero* was his first polar film. He currently works for the BBC current affairs series *Inside Out*.

## Jake Wilson

Jake Wilson is a folk-rock guitarist and songwriter in the Richard Thompson mould. As well as performing his own material, Jake currently plays with ex-Fairport Convention folk fiddle legend, Dave Swarbrick, who has described him as "one of the best guitarists and songwriters around today".

## 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. His most recent publication is *A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration*.

## J J L'Heureux

JJ is a painter, photographer, adventure and naturalist. She has made numerous trips to Antarctica and has published two books, the *Good Day Book* and *Faces from the Southern Oceans*. She has exhibited extensively in galleries and museums throughout the world most recently at the University of Iowa and the G2 Gallery in Venice, California.

## 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 6

will be on sale with back issues of

Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

# 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: €105

Lectures: €8, student/unwaged/OAP: €6

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Shaws



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Conc.



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