

Athy heritage-centre museum presents



ERNEST 17th
SHACKLETON
autumn school

Lectures - Exhibition - Film - Drama - Excursion

27th-30th oct
2017



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 27th October

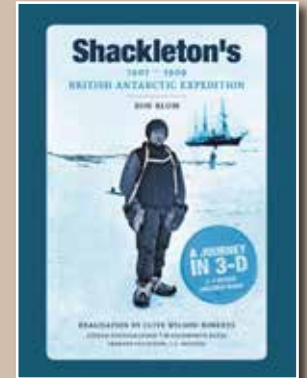
7.30pm Official Opening of Autumn School & Exhibition

Book Launch

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

8.00pm In association with the publishers, the South Australian Museum, the school is delighted to host the launch of *Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition 1907-1909*. This unique publication gives real depth to the stereo photographs drawn from the Douglas Mawson collection and a remarkable insight into Shackleton's Nimrod expedition.

The book will be launched by Mark Pharoah, the Curator of the Polar Collection at the South Australian Museum.



Daily Exhibition

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

Saturday & Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Bank Holiday Monday 10.00am - 2.00pm

“Ushering in the Age of Mechanical Exploration: Richard E. Byrd's First and Second Expeditions to Antarctica”

The exhibition, held in association with the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, focuses on Admiral Richard E. Byrd's pioneering expeditions to the Antarctic – 1928-1930 & 1933-1935.

The exhibition text was developed by the Byrd Polar Research Center and is complemented by artefacts from the Center's own and private collections.



SATURDAY 28th October

Lecture Series

Athy Library

- 10.00am** "The Ross Sea Party 1914-1917: A Wrong Righted"
Joe O'Farrell Admission €10
- 10.50am** TEA/COFFEE
- 11.20am** "The Norwegian Polar History, the basis of a National Identity"
Ambassador Else Berit Eikeland Admission €10
- 12.10pm** "Lester & Bagshawe: Unsung and Forgotten Heroes"
Robert Burton Admission €10
- 1.00pm** LUNCH
- 2.15pm** Book Launch
Brad Borkan will launch
'When your Life Depends on it' Admission Free
- 2.30pm** "The Third Man Factor: Surviving the Impossible"
John Geiger Admission €10
- 3.30pm** "Living on the Edge: In the Wake of Shackleton"
Enda O'Coineen Admission €10
- 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

Kilkea Castle Hotel

- 8.00pm** Autumn School Dinner
Preceded by drinks reception at 7.30pm. Tickets €55

SUNDAY 29th October

Lecture Series

Athy Library

- 10.00am** "Frank Hurley's Endurance Photos - as you've never seen them before"
Shane Murphy Admission €10
- 10.50am** TEA/COFFEE
- 11.20am** "Shackleton's Foreigners: Douglas Mawson, and his Eventual Supremacy, 1909-11"
Mark Pharoad Admission €10

- 12.10pm** "Ushering in the Age of Mechanical Exploration: Richard E. Byrd's First and Second Expeditions to Antarctica"
Laura Kissel Admission €10

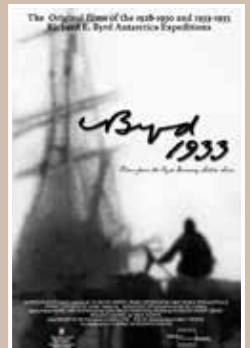
- 1.00pm** LUNCH

- 2.30pm** "An Exceptional Letter and its Mailbox: Roald Amundsen at the South Pole, December 1911"
Anne Melgård Admission €10

Film

Athy Library

- 3.30pm** Byrd 1933
The film tells the story of Byrd's 1933-1935 expedition to the Antarctic drawn from ten surviving reels from Byrd's Discovery Lecture Film Series. The filmmaker and artist Pamela Theodotou, Media Specialist at the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at The Ohio State University directed the film. The film is introduced by Laura Kissel. Admission €10



Lecture Series

Athy Library

- 5.00pm** Open Forum – Chaired by Bob Headland
Admission Free

Drama

Athy Church of Ireland Community Centre

- 8.30pm** 'Tom Crean – Antarctic Explorer'
Tom Crean (1877-1938) the intrepid Antarctic explorer and one of Ireland's unsung heroes is brought to life in this dramatic and humorous solo performance by Aidan Dooley. A welcome return to the Shackleton School for this iconic show. Admission €10



MONDAY 30th 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 Quaker Meeting House. Fare €10

INFORMATION ON CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Burton

Bob 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.

Ambassador Else Berit Eikeland

Her Excellency, Else Berit Eikeland is the Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland, having taken up office in September 2016. Her career in the Norwegian Foreign Service has spanned administrative, policy and ambassadorial roles, with postings to the Philippines, San Francisco, London and Canada. Prior to arriving in Ireland, she was the Polar Ambassador for the Arctic and Antarctica where she represented Norway's considerable interests in these regions.

The Shackleton Autumn School has built strong relations with Norway over the years, and Ambassador Eikeland is keen to further develop these and more general Norway/Ireland relations based on the many areas of common interest.

Joe O'Farrell

A polar researcher, writer, and speaker, Joe O'Farrell is a member of numerous polar societies and associations. He has contributed to many journals, and lectured extensively on the historical narrative of both Arctic and Antarctic exploration and discovery. He has been to Antarctica, including Elephant Island and South Georgia, and, in furtherance of one of his other areas of significant interest and study, has twice visited the remote South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha. Recently retired from a career in insurance, Joe lives and works in his home in Enniskerry, County Wicklow.

John Geiger

John is the Chief Executive Officer of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society. He is the international bestselling author of seven books, including *Frozen In Time: The Fate of the Franklin Expedition*, *The Third Man Factor: Surviving the Impossible*, and most recently *Franklin's Lost Ship: The Historic Discovery of HMS Erebus*. His work has been translated into fourteen languages. He has appeared on many television and radio programs, and has been featured in major documentary films including 'Arctic Ghost Ship' on PBS Nova, 'The Angel Effect' on National Geographic Channel's Explorer, and 'Flicker' on Bravo. He is the former chair of the Editorial Board of *The Globe and Mail* newspaper. In 2015 John received the Polar Medal.

Brad Borkan

Brad's interest in polar history started when he picked up an Antarctic exploration book at the local Public Library at the age of 8. He has a graduate degree in Decision Sciences from the University of Pennsylvania and has a fascination in how people and businesses can make better decisions. Brad is the co-author (with David Hirzel) of *When Your Life Depends on It: Extreme Decision Making Lessons from the Antarctic*. Using the themes in the book, Brad gives presentations showing how leaders, managers and teams can make better business and personal decisions, based on strategies employed by the early explorers. Most recently he conducted two multi-national webinars to over 500 employees of a Fortune 100 company. Brad is based in London.

Enda O'Coineen

In November 2016, Enda O'Coineen crossed the starting line on the Vendee Globe challenge, becoming the first Irish person to take part in this gruelling single handed round the world race. Two months later, a squall in the Southern Ocean dismasted his yacht 'Kilcullen Voyager', leaving him to limp into Dunedin on New Zealand's South Island. Enda's early life was a combination of youthful rebelliousness, sailing, budding entrepreneurship and hard work, with a BComm from NUI Galway along the way. Soon after, he attempted an Atlantic crossing in a rubber dinghy. He capsized 300 miles short of the west coast of Ireland - a few years later he completed the trip for

a world first. As well as having a serious commitment to charitable activities, and in particular the Atlantic youth trust, Enda is executive chairman of Kilcullen Kapital Partners with interests in a range of businesses worldwide.

Shane Murphy

Shane is a Grand Canyon river guide who also works in Antarctica driving Zodiacs and lecturing history. He read Alfred Lansing's *Endurance* in 1984 and developed an interest in seeing the 120 photos saved from the wreck. After visiting archives in the UK, Australia and New Zealand, he developed *List of Images*, a monograph identifying some 550 expedition images, detailing each item by institution and call number; known private collections and numerous ancillary files were also included. Shane has written for the James Caird Society Journal and is best known as a contributor to *South With Endurance*. He has recently completed a biography of an historic Arizona character named John Hance, "the greatest liar on earth" according to Teddy Roosevelt.

Mark Pharoah

From the U.K., but South Australia-based, Mark curated Douglas Mawson's personal collection, initially at Adelaide University. Collaborations with the South Australian Museum led to Mawson-related exhibitions (1995, 1996, 2001-17, 2009-11), and both the collection and its curator founded the Museum's Mawson Centre. Since 2003 his senior managerial role widened when he established an Australian Polar Collection, adding Wilkins and Rymill material.

Mark has written widely on Mawson, editing a CD-Rom, the *Adelie Blizzard* facsimile, and recently a stereoscopic book. He was coordinator of the 2014 centenary *Aurora* Symposium.

Laura Kissel

Laura Kissel is the Polar Curator for the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center Archival Program (Polar Archives in Columbus, Ohio), a position she has held since 1996. She has a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and a master's degree from Kent State University (Ohio). While the Polar Archives holds hundreds of collections, the cornerstone of the repository is the Papers of Admiral Richard E. Byrd. Laura's primary responsibilities include assisting the many researchers and scholars who use the collections, as well as donor relations, exhibitions, and other education and outreach activities.

Anne Melgård

Anne is a Research Librarian/Curator at the Section for Private archives, National Library of Norway in Oslo. She is an Ethnologist & cultural historian and was awarded a Master's of Art from the University of Oslo in 2000. Since 2001 she has been a permanent employee at the National Library of Norway, where for the past 10 years she has been responsible for archives connected to polar history.

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*.

Aidan Dooley

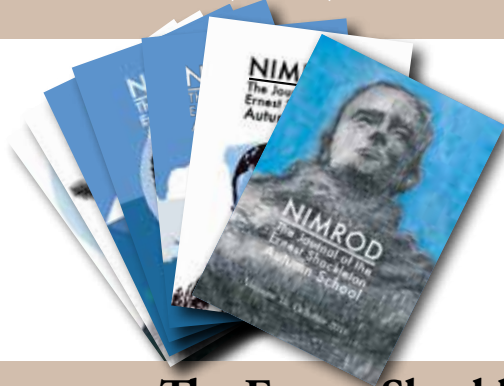
From Galway, Aidan trained at Guildford School of Acting London and works as a freelance Actor, Writer and Director in London. Highlights include 'Philadelphia Here I Come' - Wyndhams Theatre London. 'Elegies for Angels' - Criterion Theatre London. 'DA' - White Bear Theatre London. 'Players and Painted Stage', 'Last Apache Reunion' - SOS Theatre Bristol. National Tours of 'Tales of the Lost Formicans', 'Julius Ceasar' and 'Romeo and Juliet' - Bristol Old Vic Theatre Company. He worked for many years developing various performance pieces and historical characters for all the National Museums in England including the National Maritime Museum Greenwich where the idea of a story on Tom Crean originated. He has won the prestigious Fringe First at Edinburgh and the Best Solo Performance award winner at the New York International Fringe Festival.



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



Scale model of the Endurance in Athy Heritage Centre - Museum



“Nimrod” Vol 11

will be on sale with back issues of Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10

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: €160

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



Kildare County Council



Kildare Fáilte

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 Kildare County Council, Kildare Fáilte, Ohio State University/Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, Athy International Concentrates, Athy Lions Club, Kildare County Library Service



Athy International Concentrates



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
BYRD POLAR AND CLIMATE RESEARCH CENTER