



Chairman Philippa Foster Back receives the cheque from £500,000 from the Trustees of Audrey Dance's estate (Photo: R Morgan)

decision by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which had earlier refused funding for Shackleton's hut. Our eloquent pleas were given a courteous hearing, but did not prevail. The Trustees confirmed their earlier decision not to support projects outside the United Kingdom's borders. So the only funding from official government sources remains the very welcome £70,000 from the Government of the British Antarctic Territory donated at the start of the project.

We were delighted to receive a donation of no less than £500,000 for the huts project, out of the estate of the late Mrs Audrey Dance. Mrs Dance, who lived in Northumberland, was the granddaughter of Herbert Dorman, brother of Sir Ernest Shackleton's wife. Her executors chose the huts project to receive the largest bequest from her estate, and a cheque was handed over to the Chairman, Philippa Foster Back, at a special ceremony during the UKAHT Trustees meeting on 16 May.

The money will be used to complete the work on Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds, to commence the work on Scott's hut at Cape Evans, and to establish the Audrey Dance Fund, to provide continuing maintenance at Cape Royds when the capital work is completed.

There was another disappointing

Sir Neil Cossons devoted his farewell address as President of the RGS to an impassioned statement of the importance of preserving the huts. This was very well-received by RGS fellows and members present.

Three conservators, including Nicola

launched by the Natural History Museum in May, as part of their IT agreement with the NZAHT (see [www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/earth/Antarctica/](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/earth/Antarctica/)), and has proved very popular.

There has been increased press interest and coverage. Simon Jenkins wrote a column in the Guardian criticising the NHMF's decision, followed by an exchange of letters in the paper and on its website, almost all supporting his views. Several leading figures wrote a letter to the Times calling for more support from the Government, followed by an interview with Ranulph Fiennes on Radio 4's Today programme. The Independent carried a photo feature, and there have been articles in regional papers. The New Scientist published an extensive interview article with Nicola Dunn. This in turn led to articles in the Daily Mirror, Mail on Sunday and then further publicity for Nicola and the project on local radio and TV.

We have been trying to influence the Government's attitude through a letter campaign. We have asked all UK members of UKAHT to write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Tessa Jowell, and their local MP, calling for greater Government support for the project, and we are most grateful to all who have done this. We have also invited other organisations with similar interests



Cape Royds Interior (Photo: Nigel McCall)

Dunn from UK, have continued conserving artefacts from Shackleton's hut at New Zealand's Scott Base throughout the Antarctic winter. A blog covering their work and experiences was

to do the same with their own membership. So far the only replies from DCMS have been by officials restating existing policy, but several MPs have responded more encouragingly.

### A plea for a Wild or a Marshall .....

Shackleton Centenary Expedition 2008: To mark the centenary of the Nimrod Expedition a group of direct descendents of the original party is planning to retrace the original route of 1908/09 and then complete the last 97 miles and place the team at the South Pole.

Planning, fundraising and training is well underway but direct descendents of Wild and Marshall are still being sought - they have a Shackleton and an Adams. If anybody knows of any descendant to Wild or Marshall, however distant, could they please get in contact with Henry Worsley by email at [henryworsley@hotmail.com](mailto:henryworsley@hotmail.com).

### New Map

The British Antarctic Survey has just produced a map exclusively for the Antarctic Heritage Trust. No traveller to the Antarctic Peninsula would want to be without it. It is double sided measuring 80x90cm. One side shows the Northern Peninsula stretching from Elephant Island in the NE to Marguerite Bay in the SW at 1:1 mill. scale. On the other side is a new Scotia Sea map showing Southern Tierra Del Fuego, Falkland Islands, South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia and the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula at 1: 4 mill. scale - ideal for plotting a ship's voyage. Both maps show full topography and bathymetry. You can obtain the map either at Port Lockroy or from the Trust by sending a cheque for £15.00 (inc. p&p).

# Bergy Bits

## The Newsletter of the Friends of Antarctica

### The Trust takes on the operation of Port Lockroy...

The Trust is delighted to have taken on full responsibility for the management and operation at the Antarctic Historic Hut at Port Lockroy. In an agreement signed in July between the British Antarctic Survey (part of the Natural Environment Research Council, which owns Port Lockroy and its historical artefacts), the Trust will assume responsibility for the conservation and on-site management of the British 'Base A' - Port Lockroy, on Goudier Island (64°49'S, 63°29'W) in the Antarctic Peninsula.

Following a conservation survey in 1994, Port Lockroy was recognised for its historical importance and designated as Historic Site and Monument No. 61 under the Antarctic Treaty. The base was renovated in 1996 by the British Antarctic Survey and since then opened to visitors during the Antarctic summer. The Trust will continue to operate the Historic Site as a 'living museum'. This is made possible only by the proceeds of the small gift shop. Any surplus goes towards renovation of other historic sites in Antarctica. The Trust will also run the post-office at Port Lockroy on behalf of the Government of the British Antarctic Territory. A proportion of the revenue for the Post Office operation is donated to the Trust by the Government of the British Antarctic Territory. Around 50,000 cards are posted each year for over 100

countries. Mail usually takes 2-6 weeks to arrive. There is no express service available!

These visits will adhere to the new Site Guidelines adopted at the 29th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held in Edinburgh in June. We will continue the long-term environmental monitoring study, established by BAS to determine whether the large numbers of visitors cause any disturbance to the gentoo penguin colony located on the island. This

programme has consistently demonstrated that visitor numbers to the site have not caused any discernible impact on the breeding success of the resident penguins.

We are grateful for the close continuing co-operation with the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators [www.iaato.org](http://www.iaato.org), the British Antarctic Survey [www.antarctica.ac.uk](http://www.antarctica.ac.uk) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk).



Visitors at Port Lockroy (Photo: Graham Gillie)

### We are very grateful to the following for their support:

- Discover the World for staff and goods movement - [www.discover-the-world.co.uk](http://www.discover-the-world.co.uk)
- Global Marine Networks and Skyeeye Systems which provide weather services and group email solutions/vessel tracking to many of the IAATO fleet [www.globalmarinenet.net](http://www.globalmarinenet.net), [www.xaxero.com/skyeye.htm](http://www.xaxero.com/skyeye.htm)
- Hurtigruten Group ASA for assistance with staff and freight - [www.hurtigruten.co.uk](http://www.hurtigruten.co.uk)
- Tog 24 for staff clothing - [www.tog24.com](http://www.tog24.com)
- Edinburgh Woollen Mill for sheepskins (to sleep on!) - [www.ewm.co.uk](http://www.ewm.co.uk)



### OUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED

Please remove our old email address from your address book. You should now be in touch with us on:  
**info@ukaht.org**

### - BRITAIN'S ANTARCTIC HERITAGE -

With financial assistance from the Government of the British Antarctic Territory, the Trust has produced a small booklet outlining Britain's contribution to Antarctic exploration and science. We are grateful to our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal for contributing a Foreword. Copies will be for sale at Port Lockroy and also available from the Trust [info@ukaht.org](mailto:info@ukaht.org), 01291 690305.

## Lost film and diary discovered....

During her painstaking research for her new book on the Ross Sea Party of Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, Kelly Tyler-Lewis discovered motion pictures taken on the expedition that had been presumed lost since 1917. Frank Hurley's film taken on the *Endurance* side of Shackleton's expedition is well known, but it was long believed that film footage of the Ross Sea party had been lost in the sinking of the *Medina* in the English Channel by a German U-boat. Expedition photographer Arnold Spencer-Smith died on the Ross Ice Shelf as the party carried out its mission constructing depots to supply Shackleton's 1,500-mile transcontinental crossing. Many of his personal effects were sent home on the *Medina*. Advised by Alexandra Shackleton and film conservator Brenda Hudson of mysterious unidentified footage in the polar

collection of the British Film Institute, Tyler-Lewis viewed and identified the film of the Ross Sea party survivors and scenes in the McMurdo Sound region. The BFI later released the footage, with commentary by Tyler-Lewis, in a special DVD edition of *South*.

Among the sixteen diaries and logs of the members cited in her book, her research also unearthed the original field diary of Ernest Joyce, one of the principals of the expedition, hitherto unknown to polar archivists. Joyce made several copies of his diary with significant variations, three of which informed Tyler-Lewis's research. In 2005 she met collectors Richard and Peggy Kremenz, who had purchased the diary at auction in New Zealand. Exquisitely preserved, the diary was bound in what Tyler-Lewis immediately recognized as tent canvas left at Cape Evans by R. F. Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition, and the pages were stained with blubber grease and soot.

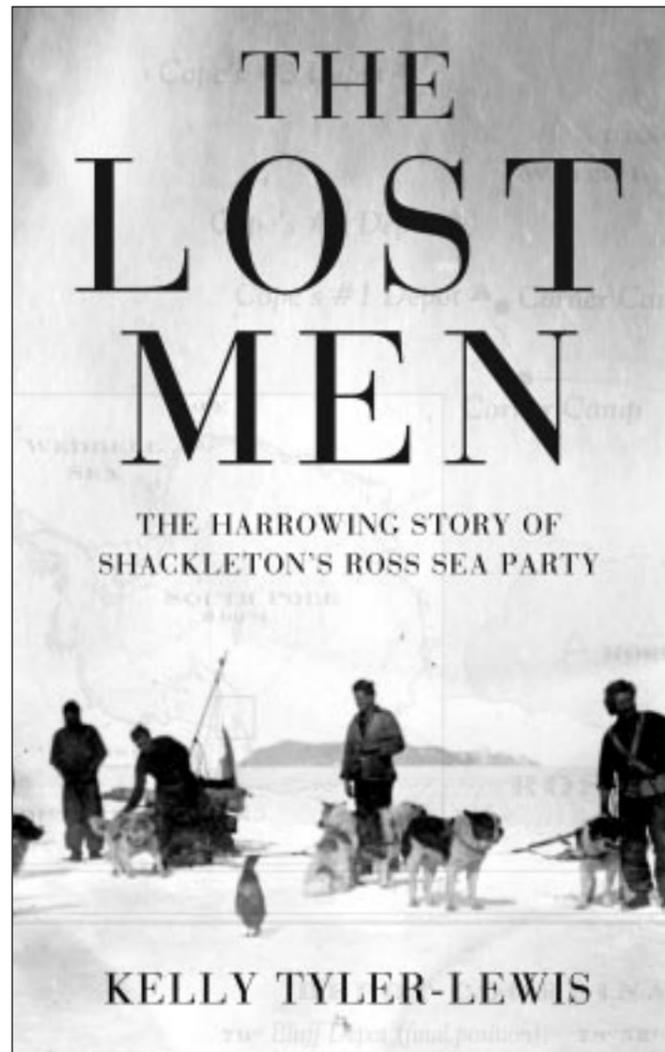
Stranded when their ship, the *Aurora*, broke away from its moorings and disappeared in a gale in May 1915, the Ross Sea shore party relied upon seal for food and fuel. Differing in key passages from the transcribed versions, Joyce's frank commentary sheds new light on pivotal events of the expedition—and on Joyce himself. She also located a crucial missing segment of the diary of the Ross Sea party's commander, Aeneas Mackintosh, and thousands of previously unexamined pages of government documents and private papers relating to the expedition

Thanks to the Shackleton family donation of key Ross Sea party papers to SPRI in 2002, Tyler-Lewis made the first careful examination of their maps and navigation notes. She turned to US Antarctic Program cartographer Kelly Brunt, who used a GIS to merge Mackintosh's maps, coordinate information and bearings from the archival material, and modern mapping data from SCAR's Antarctic Digital Database to produce the first definitive maps of the Ross Sea party's travels. The maps revealed that their route crossed through the so-called "shear zone" of heavy crevassing southeast of Hut Point, now the site of McMurdo Station. Glaciology was a developing science in 1914, and the men had no knowledge that this area was prone to dangerous crevasses due to the convergence of two ice shelves.

The expedition seemed to be rather an afterthought for Shackleton despite the fact that, had he succeeded in crossing the continent, his life depended on the depots to be laid by the Ross Sea party. A poorly equipped start was only made very much worse when the ship still holding the bulk of supplies was blown out to sea.

Historically overshadowed by the *Endurance* party of Shackleton's endeavour, the Ross Sea party was in fact the only successful part of his Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. The ten men remaining of the stranded shore party succeeded in the monumental task of laying the depots with extraordinary tenacity, suffering scurvy, extreme hardship, and deprivation. No other Heroic Age expedition had come close to the 200 days they spent sledging unsupported on the Ross Ice Shelf.

The results of this exhaustive research can be read in Kelly's gripping account *The Lost Men: The Harrowing Story of Shackleton's Ross Sea Party*, published by Bloomsbury. We are selling copies in aid of the Trust. Please send a cheque for £18.99 or ring the Trust on 01291 690305 with your credit card details. Kelly will be speaking at the Scott Polar Research Institute at 8pm on Sunday 7th October. [www.thelostmen.com](http://www.thelostmen.com)



Secretary Rachel Morgan during a quiet moment on the UKAHT stand at the ATCM (Photo: R Morgan)

## Friends of Antarctica news....

Thirty of so Friends of Antarctica gathered in Leith and were welcomed on board *HMS Endurance* for a tour of the ship. We are most grateful to Captain Nick Lambert and Lt Cmdr Carl Wiseman for their hospitality. During the weekend Friends were also able to enjoy the other Antarctic attractions taking place in Edinburgh during the fortnight of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. *RRS James Clark Ross* was also in dock receiving visitors and there were other events and exhibitions including new prints of Ponting's photographs from the original plates recently acquired by the Scott Polar Research Institute, and a special exhibition of British art from Antarctica, 1775-2006. The UKAHT had a stand at the ATCM and we are grateful to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for this opportunity.



Chairman Philippa Foster Back accepting a special thank you from Captain Nick Lambert (Photo: M Miller)



Two Antarctic ships docked side by side in Leith (Photo: R Morgan)

### TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS FOR US CITIZENS

For US tax payers we have set up an arrangement whereby your donation/subscription can be tax-deductible for amounts over US\$250. Cheques are payable to The American Fund for Charities who then forward the sum to us (taking a percentage fee). For more details be in touch with Rachel Morgan at the Trust on +44 1291 690305 or [info@ukaht.org](mailto:info@ukaht.org).

### Dates for your diary...

- **The Hon Edward Broke-Evans** will be giving his father's classic polar lecture on glass lantern slides using an Edwardian 'magic lantern'. A rare opportunity. 8pm on Saturday 30th September at the Scott Polar Research Institute. Tickets required - £10.
- The Devon and Cornwall Polar Buffs (all welcome) will meet informally at the New Country Inn, Smithaleigh, near Ivybridge on Thursday 5 October at 7.30pm. **Tony Soper** will speak about his experiences with wildlife expeditions to the polar regions. Drinks and bar snacks will be available. Donation suggested for Charity (UKAHT?!)
- **Kelly Tyler-Lewis** will speak at the Scott Polar Research Institute on her book 'The Lost Men' at 8pm on Sunday 7th October, [www.thelostmen.com](http://www.thelostmen.com)
- The sixth **Ernest Shackleton Autumn School** will take place on 26th – 30th October at Athy Heritage Centre - Museum, County Kildare. More information on +59 863 3075, [www.athyheritage-centre.ie](http://www.athyheritage-centre.ie)
- **Sir Ranulph Fiennes** will be speaking at the Scott Polar Research Institute on 'Living Dangerously, My Life as an Explorer' at 5pm on Saturday 11th November. Advance booking essential.
- **John Kelly's** exhibition 'Due South' is at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History ([www.oum.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk)) from October 1 to late January 2007.
- The 'Endurance & Survival' exhibition at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall continues to run until January 2007. Admission £7 (conc. £4.80) open 10-5. 01326 214536/558 [www.nmmc.co.uk](http://www.nmmc.co.uk)
- **Tewkesbury** Borough Museum's exhibition on Raymond Priestley runs until the end of October. Thereafter there will be a scaled down exhibit. Open Wed, Fri, Sat, 10-4. 01684 292901
- The RGS's exhibition of **Ponting's** photographs: 'With Scott to the Pole' will be at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Exeter, from Jan – April 2007, 01392 665314, [www.exeter.gov.uk](http://www.exeter.gov.uk)
- Another RGS exhibition of **Hurley's** pictures: 'Antarctic Witness' charting Shackleton's 1914-17 expedition will show at the Lime Tree Studios, Fort William from Feb – Mar 2007, 01397 701806, [www.limetreestudio.co.uk](http://www.limetreestudio.co.uk)