

Bergy Bits

The Newsletter of the Friends of Antarctica

UKAHT helps with restoration of Nelson's sledge

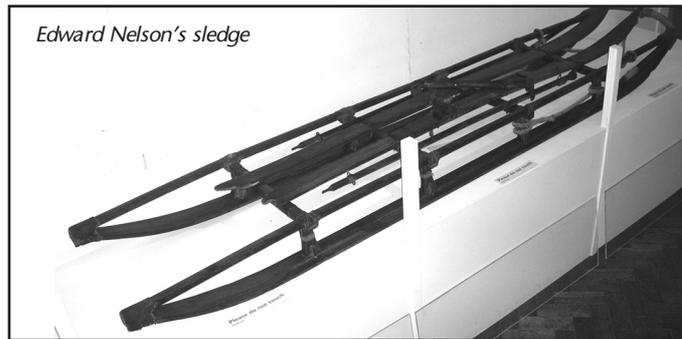
The Trust is happy to have been able to assist financially with the restoration of a sledge and skis from Scott's Terra Nova expedition. The sledge is owned by the Marine Biological Association (MBA), and was used by the MBA's Edward W Nelson, who worked as an invertebrate zoologist and was responsible for tidal observations on the Terra Nova.

It is now on loan to Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery (PCMAG) along with items from the family of PO Keohane including his personal sledging flag, a cap ribbon from the Terra Nova, a model of a sledge made by him and a commemorative photograph of Scott presented to all members of the Terra Nova crew.

Plymouth is proud of its close association with Antarctic exploration. Robert Falcon Scott was born in the port and a number of the sailors who sailed with both him and Shackleton were born or lived locally. The first Curator of PCMAG, Thomas Vere Hodgson, was a marine biologist on Scott's Discovery

expedition of 1901-1904.

PCMAG has a unique collection of Antarctic material including letters written by Scott, photographs, a pair of snow goggles and some items of woollen clothing (all 1901-1904). In the last three



years, the museum has successfully acquired, at auction, items belonging to WO Dailey (Discovery expedition) and PO Keohane (Terra Nova expedition).

Much of the Scott and associated Antarctic material will be on display from early December in a new gallery under the heading 'Plymouth Journeys'. The new gallery, one of four, entitled Plymouth: Port and Place focuses on the local and social history of Plymouth as a port and how geography and the landscape have shaped the development

of the city.

In addition to the new permanent gallery, PCMAG is working towards a temporary exhibition in 2012 to commemorate the centenary of Scott's death; currently entitled 'Scott and The

Age of Antarctic Travel'. This will be accompanied by a related public events programme.

The Museum is open from 10am to 5.30pm Tuesday to Friday and 10am to 5pm on Saturdays and Bank Holiday Mondays. Admission is free.

Full details of PCMAG's exhibitions and events programme are available from www.plymouthmuseum.gov.uk or 01752 304774.

The MBA was one of the world's first institutions for studying the oceans founded in 1884 and based in Plymouth from 1888. The MBA still undertakes world class research from its Laboratory overlooking Plymouth Sound. See www.mba.ac.uk.

Port Lockroy plans

Last season's debrief was held in the Lake District and we were lucky enough to see a few previous Port Lockroy staff - Sue Dowling, Gerard Baker, and Jo Hardy. Preparations are well underway for the new season. Our new team of four: Rick Atkinson (base leader) assisted by Nikki Rickett, Judith Black, and Laura Ling will set off at the end of October. All three new staff have visited Port Lockroy in the past. Plans for the reconstruction of the Nissen hut to provide improved staff accommodation are at an advanced stage with erection planned for the 2009/10 season. You can monitor progress on the Port Lockroy diaries: www.ukaht.org/portlockroydiaries.

Once again thank you to our supporters, including some new ones - see panel right.



Tom Horne, Managing Director, Lowestoft, Alan Youngman, Frame Manager, Jeld-wen, Tudor Morgan, AHT Operations Manager, John Pye, Head of Administration and Logistics, BAS

JELD-WEN one of the World's leading manufacturers of doors, windows and stairs has recently marked the 60th anniversary of it supplying the first timber huts to the Antarctic by

assisting the Trust with a replacement window for a damaged timber window for Bransfield House, the main hut at Port Lockroy. This is only the first stage in an on-going plan to renovate this and

other buildings on the Peninsula. JELD-WEN's relationship with the Antarctic started well over 60 years ago when Boulton & Paul, the company JELD-

WEN bought in 1999, supplied the actual timber huts to be sent to Port Lockroy. JELD-WEN's timber component factory in Lowestoft has now produced and donated the single glazed timber window to the exact design of the original windows to match those supplied to the building 50 years ago.

The Edinburgh Woollen Mill



News from the Ross Island Huts

Once again a team of conservators has braved the long dark winter conserving artefacts from Scott's and Shackleton's Huts at Scott Base, the New Zealand scientific base on Ross Island. The over-winterers have been recording their activities at www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/earth/antarctica/blog.

During the season they have worked on clothing, paper, leather, sewing equipment, and assorted strange metallic structures, some of them still unidentified. A major milestone was reached during the winter, when the conservators finished the last of the pieces from Shackleton's Hut. These are now ready to be restored to their correct locations at Cape Royds. That will be the completion of the entire project for the conservation of the Boss's only surviving base in Antarctica in time for the centenary of Shackleton's Nimrod Expedition of 1907-09.

Two inspired to Trek unaided to South Pole to raise funds for Scott's Hut

In November 2008, Gavin Booth and Adam Wilton, two young men in their early 30's will trek to the South Pole to raise funds to Save Scott's Hut. Inspired by news stories of the plight of the fragile hut, Gavin and Adam decided to support the cause and achieve a lifetime ambition, to trek unaided to the Pole. The expedition will have no re-supplies and the men will be self sufficient, dragging 120kg pulks 1,130 km from Hercules Inlet over the ice and sastrugi to the Pole. They aim to arrive on New Year's Day 2009.



"This is the expedition of a lifetime and the effort over the past 5 years - sacrificing holidays to train, negotiating time off work, organisation, not to mention getting up in the early mornings to drag tyres, has been huge. With less than two months before we set off we are excited but serious about the challenge. To reach the pole unassisted will be an epic adventure and will undoubtedly be the hardest thing we have done. The opportunity to help raise funds to save such an important icon of polar history will inspire us to keep marching on our long haul to the pole. We are very grateful to our main expedition sponsor, Propinvest. Their support means that every penny raised will support the Hut Conservation."

To support Adam and Gavin and find out more about their expedition go to their website: www.BritishSouthPole.com

Shackleton Centenary

100 years ago Ernest Shackleton was in the final stages of preparation for his assault on the South Pole. The Nimrod, a 40 yr old sealer less than a fifth of the displacement of Scott's Discovery, had anchored at Cape Royds on 3rd Feb 1908, where they had built their expedition hut. That summer a party made the first ascent of Mount Erebus. Shackleton, Adams, Marshall and Wild did not make the pole but pioneered the route up the Beardmore Glacier turning back only 97 miles from the Pole on 9th January 2009.



On the same expedition a northern party including Douglas Mawson reached the South Magnetic Pole on 17th January 1909. The Nimrod picked them up on 5th February. The party had been out nearly 4½ months.

We are now truly into the Centenary period of the heroic age of exploration with more adventurers than ever wanting to reach the South Pole under their own steam. Here are just a few: www.britishsouthpole.com, www.shackletoncentenary.org, www.soloantarctica.com, www.amundsenomega3southpolerace.com

Dates for your diary...

Exhibitions

Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge:
18 Sept - 8 Nov: Chris and Vikky Furse (oils and printmaking)
21 Oct - 4 April 2009: British Antarctic (Nimrod) Expedition Centenary Exhibition
14 Jan - 14 Feb: John Gale (oils, sketches, and watercolours)
26 Feb - 4 April: John Kelly (installation) Rheged Centre, Penrith, Cumbria:
1 Dec - 28 Feb 2009: Roger Slade's (www.rogersladephoto.co.uk) exhibition of Antarctic photographs
 Dundee Heritage Trust - Discovery Point Café Gallery,
7 Mar - 25 May 2009: 'Face to Face: Polar Portraits'

Events

24-27 Oct 2008, 8th Ernest Shackleton Autumn School at the Athy Heritage Centre-Museum Co. Kildare, Ireland
31 Oct 2008 - 7pm, Ghost Tour of RRS Discovery, Dundee
5 Nov 2008, 7.30pm, Antarctica as an experience: the last great wilderness on the planet by Roger Slade, at The Oates Museum, Selborne £10.50 to include wine and nibbles. Telephone 01420 511275 to book your place
28 Nov 2008 7.30pm, Discovery Dinner, Hilton, Dundee. Special guest speaker Tom Avery, the youngest Briton to have been to both the North and the South Poles. £50 per person. Email admin@dundeeheritage.co.uk, tel 01382 309060
17 Dec 2008 7pm, Discovery Carol Concert, Dundee