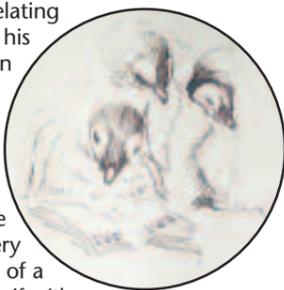


Wilson artefacts saved

A large collection of rare personal papers relating to Dr. Edward Wilson of the Antarctic and his family came up for auction at Bonham's in September. Dr. David Wilson, his great nephew, led efforts to salvage as much as possible for the national archives and I am pleased to say that the Antarctic Heritage Trust contributed significantly to the £18,000 raised by 33 donors. Amongst the items saved were letters from prominent polar figures, including Captain Scott and Lady Scott, to Wilson's parents, relating to Wilson's role on both of Scott's Antarctic expeditions. These went to the archives at the SPRI. Also acquired was a rare paper on the meteorology of the 'Discovery' expedition in Wilson's own hand, which went to the collections of the Dundee Heritage Trust. The largest part of the acquisition went to the Wilson Family Archive at the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum and included two wonderful scrap books kept by Wilson's sister. Also included were a draft of a private biography of Wilson by his father; an important transcript of Wilson's penultimate letter to his wife (the original of which is destroyed) and a poignant telegram sent by her to Wilson's parents announcing that the latest news from the expedition is that he is fit and well. In fact he had been dead for a week. The donation of the material generated a great deal of interest in the local and national media, including a spot on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme.



Credit Cheltenham artGallery and Museum

Mawson's plane found....

The Mawson's Huts Foundation restoration team has finally found parts of the Vickers aircraft taken to Antarctica by Sir Douglas Mawson in 1912. It was always a bold move to take the early aircraft to the world's most hostile environment and the exercise did not begin well for Mawson. A demonstration of the aircraft was undertaken in Adelaide just before the party set sail in 1911. It crashed and the wings were too badly damaged to be repaired and it was converted at last minute to an "air tractor" for towing sledges. When deployed at their base in Cape Denison the rudimentary engine performed badly in the extreme cold and the experiment was abandoned. The engine was stripped from the aircraft and returned to Vickers while the fuselage was discarded near the base when the party left in 1913. The aircraft is historically significant because researchers believe it to be the first one to come from the famous Vickers factory in Sheffield, the armaments manufacturer later responsible for such famous aircraft as the WWI Vimy bomber and Wellington of WWII.

The conservators were excited to find the remaining parts of the fuselage which have only become visible because of the particularly low tide. The aircraft had been occasionally sighted in the past, the last time being in the mid-1970s. The first successful use of an aircraft in Antarctica was by Mawson's countryman, Sir Hubert Wilkins, who flew with pilot, US-born Ben Eielson, from Deception Island over the Peninsula (Graham Land) in 1928. www.mawsons-huts.org.au

Oral History Project update...

This joint collaboration between the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), BAS Club, Scott Polar Research Institute, and UKAHT has really taken off. Last year there were multiple interviews undertaken at reunions of the BAS Club in Cambridge in July (5), Hope Bay reunion in Coniston in October (10), Marguerite Bay reunion in Bowness in November (9) and a further 12 people interviewed through the year. This brings the total interviewed for the project to 90. The long term aim is incorporate these interviews into an educational resource on the Antarctic Peninsula.

A complementary oral history project launched this month is the British Library's Life Stories of Contemporary British Scientists which will include 50 in-depth interviews with scientists under the theme 'The changing planet'. In addition the South Georgia Museum (coordinated by Elsa Davidson) and the South Georgia Heritage Trust have started a project to interview ex-whalers.

Many thanks to those interviewed and to the interviewer Chris Eldon-Lee, coordinators Joanna Rae (BAS) Allan Wearden (BAS Club), Naomi Boneham (SPRI), Amanda Lynnes (UKAHT), and volunteers, Felicity Aston, Dave Burkitt, Alan Carroll, Susannah Ferrar, Mike Leach, Jack Tolson, Andy Smith. Welcome to new volunteers Ken Hill and Chris Lush. Another researcher in the Cambridge area would not go amiss!. If you are interested contact Allan on 01254 247541 allan.wearden@btinternet.com or Amanda amandalynnes@hotmail.com 01629 636643

Activities...

- Polar Ark, wildlife photography from South Georgia will be on display at Verdant Works, **Dundee** from the 1st April to 1st May 2010. Limited edition prints on sale in aid of the South Georgia Heritage Trust www.polarark.co.uk, 01382 309060
- Stephen Venables will speak on Shackleton's crossing of South Georgia at the Theatre by the Lake in **Keswick** on 26 April 7.30pm, 017687 74411, www.theatrebythelake.co.uk
- James Caird Society dinner and lecture by Sue Flood on Antarctic Wildlife 7 May, **London**. www.jamescairdsociety.com
- Jenny Coverack is touring with her play about Kathleen Scott 'A Father for my Son'. 20 May, The Web theatre, **Newtonards**, Co. Down (02891 828234). If you have a venue and would like a staging then be in touch with the Trust.
- South Georgia Association AGM, 21 May at the Royal Overseas League, **London**. www.southgeorgiaassociation.org
- 12 June 2.30-4.30pm at the National Museum of Wales. As part of the **Cardiff** Scott celebrations the British Antarctica Monument Trust has put together an

afternoon on 'Captain Scott's Legacy'. It will include talks by Dr David Wilson, and Felicity Aston. Download form at www.antarctic-monument.org or phone 01923 447422.

- On the anniversary of the departure of the Terra Nova on 13 June UKAHT is planning a **Friends Gathering in Cardiff Bay**. Details yet to be finalised. Please register your interest with us at 'rachel@ukaht.org' or 01291 690305 and we will keep in touch.
- The 2010 RRS Discovery Pro-Am Golf Tournament is on 2 September at Downfield Golf Course in **Dundee**. For further information contact Kim Adamson on 01382 309060 or email: kimadamson@dundeeheritage.co.uk

We have joined Facebook. If you know about Facebook you will know that this can a useful medium to post last minute notices and news. Log on to facebook and search for UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Here we will post details of forthcoming events and last minute information.

Walk and run for the UKAHT in Edinburgh...

Raise funds for the Trust and enjoy a fun and memorable event for all abilities starting in Edinburgh's Holyrood Park. On Sunday 6th June (Scott's birthday), you can choose between a 6 and 12 mile walk (starting at 11am) and/or a 5k run starting at 9.30. Or if you feel you cannot manage those you can walk the Golden Mile. Well behaved dogs can enter too. Entrants will receive a sponsorship form so you can raise funds for the Trust. Top fundraisers will be rewarded with bronze, silver and gold medals, with commemorative plaques for teams raising in excess of £1000. All money raised will go towards Scott's hut and therefore be matched pound for pound. In addition the UKAHT will donate a matching amount of monies raised to the Dundee Heritage Trust. If you would like to know more see www.challengescotland.com/ or be in touch with Rachel Morgan for an entry form 01291 690305, rachel@ukaht.org. You can enter individually or as a team.

Bergy Bits

The Newsletter of the Friends of Antarctica

Peninsula

It was another busy season at Port Lockroy with 13,000 visitors. Well done to Anna, Claire, Eleanor, and Rachel (you can see their diaries on www.ukaht.org/diaries). Rick, Graham, and Joe carried out the Nissen hut reconstruction ready for next season's staff to live in, so we can now carry out improvements to the museum in Bransfield House. Work has also now started on the historic sites newly taken on by the Trust (see Bergy Bits 29). At Wordie House, Rick and Joe made the buildings structurally secure and weathertight for the next ten years. At Damoy Refuge, students from Geelong Grammar School, aboard the Spirit of Sydney, along with Rachel from Port Lockroy, carried out essential maintenance and external decoration. Next season's plans include artefact and interpretation work at Wordie and Damoy, as well as major works at Detaille. Thank you to all those that helped throughout the season. You can see a list of our sponsors on www.ukaht.org/sponsors.



Nissen hut 1957 (credit D. Price)

Nissen hut now



Forthcoming centenary of Scott's departure from the UK...

The centenary of Captain Scott's Terra Nova expedition (1910-1913) and the death of his Polar Party is set to be celebrated with a series of worldwide events from 2010-2013. Major events are already under way with exhibitions starting at Brantwood House and in the Queen's Galleries; The American Museum of Natural History in New York launches a blockbuster exhibition in May; and in the UK, in June, the Scott Polar Research Institute museum will re-open (8th June) including a Friends gathering on Sunday (see activities); and a long weekend in Cardiff to celebrate the sailing of Terra Nova from

British shores (12-15th June). Many institutions in the UK, including Scott Polar, Cheltenham, Dundee, Oates, and Plymouth are planning exhibitions and events. This series of nationwide events will then lead through to a National Service of Commemoration at St. Paul's Cathedral in March 2012 and an exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London. A complete list of international centenary events will be posted and regularly updated at www.scott100.org so please let the organisers know of events in your area - and keep an eye out for events near to you!

LADY SCOTT -

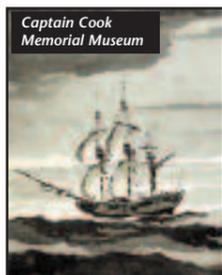
We are sad to announce that the Trust's Vice Patron, Lady Scott died on 5th January 2010 at the age of 91. Lady Scott was the widow of the late Sir Peter Scott. There is a saying 'behind every man is a great woman' and this was never more true than of Lady Scott. Sir David Attenborough famously said that "The Scott partnership put conservation on the map [founding the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) more than 63 years ago] ...at a time when conservation was not a word that most people understood". Lady Scott remained committed to and passionate about the work of the UKAHT up until the end of her life.

Gift of a Lifetime...

Please consider leaving a gift to support our work in your will. Your legacy could make a real difference by helping us to continue to protect British Antarctic Heritage both in Antarctica and the UK. If you would like more information on how to make a bequest please contact Rachel Morgan at the address below.

A History of the World in 100 objects...

At the heart of the project is the BBC Radio 4 series A History of the World in 100 Objects which focusses on 100 objects from the British Museum's collection. The partnership extends across the UK inviting museums to participate. Another hundred were selected from thousands put forward. You can see them on A History of the World on www.bbc.co.uk/ahistoryoftheworld. We have found six objects relating to Antarctic exploration (and two to Arctic - Captain John Franklin's snow shoes and Sir John Ross's beef can). The six objects are:



Captain Cook Memorial Museum

William Hodges' sketch of the Resolution in a stream of pack-ice is held by the **Captain Cook Memorial Museum** in Whitby. Resolution was a sturdy Whitby-built collier bark bought by the Admiralty for Captain Cook's second voyage of exploration. The aim was to discover a fertile 'undiscovered Southern Continent' still believed to exist somewhere in the southern oceans. Cook in the Resolution made two great sweeps towards the South Pole in 1772-3, the first ship to cross the Antarctic Circle, and nearly came within sight of Antarctica itself. The sketch, by William Hodges, the official draughtsman to the expedition, shows a choppy sea, overcast skies, and ice floating past. The Resolution came home, certain there was no undiscovered land. We are delighted to report that this sketch was acquired by the museum in 2006 with the financial assistance of the UKAHT.

The ship 'Discovery' is now in the care of the **Dundee Heritage Trust**. The harmonium on board was presented by the people of Christchurch, New Zealand to the British National Antarctic Expedition of 1901-04 for use on board the Dundee-built "Discovery". It was through the earnest efforts of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Harper, Anglican Bishop of Christchurch, the editor of the Lyttelton Times, that the funds were raised to procure the organ. This model was patented in 1887 and was made by Wilcox & White, Meriden, Connecticut,



Dundee Heritage Trust

USA It is made mainly of wood with relief carving, incised decoration, fretwork, turned pillars and handles and 'mouse-proof pedals'. It was normally played by Lieutenant Royds when onboard and was used for both entertainment and for the Sunday religious service.



The McManus Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum

In the **McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum** resides this exquisite model of the Terra Nova. It highlights both Dundee's skill in shipbuilding. The Terra Nova was one of Dundee's finest whaling ships built in 1884. Built to withstand the crush of the ice, the Terra Nova was suited to exploration work in the Polar Regions. It was used to relieve Captain Scott when his exploration ship Discovery was beset by Antarctic pack ice in 1904. Seven years later she carried him on his last fateful expedition to the South Pole.

Patrick Keohane, who accompanied Scott, donated these skis and poles to **Plymouth Museum**. Scott was born in Plymouth in 1868. These skis were possibly sourced by ski expert Trygve Gran, who Scott met when visiting Oslo (then Christiania), Norway. He was the Norwegian with Scott on the Terra Nova expedition. In his diary entry of 11th December 1910, Scott records, *I'm much pleased with the ski and ski boots*. However, he chose not to use skis on the final steps to the South Pole.

The **Scott Polar Research Institute** has in its vast collection, Oates' reindeer skin sleeping bag. Used by Arctic peoples for thousands of years, reindeer or caribou hair is the world's best insulator against the cold. On the way back from the South Pole, suffering from severe frostbite, Oates sacrificed himself to give his companions a chance of survival. On 17 March 1912, Scott wrote in his Journal: *"Oates' ... did not - would not - give up hope to the very end. He was a brave soul. This was the end. He slept through the night before last, hoping not to wake; but he woke in the morning ... It was blowing a blizzard. He*

Markham Plaque?

Robert Stephenson is leading a campaign to get a Blue Plaque for Clements Markham's London house at 21 Eccleston Square. **Sir Clements Robert Markham** KCB FRS (1830 -1916) was one of the paramount figures of British geography and the quintessential promoter of Antarctic exploration. As the Royal Geographical Society's president during the last 12 years of the 19th century, he was mainly responsible for organising the National Antarctic Expedition of 1901-04, and for launching the polar career of Robert Falcon Scott. The main achievement of Markham's RGS presidency was the revival at the end of the 19th century of British interest in Antarctic exploration. He had served as a midshipman on one of the many searches for the lost expedition of Sir John Franklin 50-years previously and forms the link between Britain's interest in Antarctic exploration and the obsession with the Arctic. He had strong and determined ideas about how the National Antarctic Expedition should be organised, and fought hard to ensure that it was run primarily as a naval enterprise, under Captain Scott's command. To do this he overcame hostility and opposition from much of the scientific community. In the years following the expedition he continued to champion Scott's career, to the extent of disregarding or disparaging the achievements of other contemporary explorers. Mount Markham was named for him by Scott in 1902. Add your support with a letter/e-mail. Find out how <http://www.antarctic-circle.org/markhamplaque.htm>



Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery

Ross Sea Huts

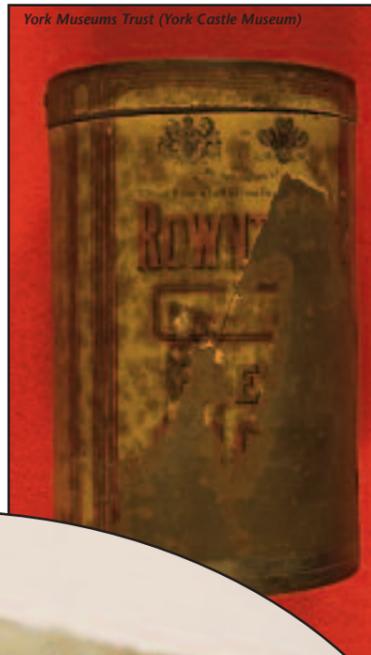
It has been another successful summer season's work on Ross Island. A team of conservation carpenters Gordon, Gene and Martin repaired parts of the structure of the Cape Evans hut. Their main work was on the stables and latrine area, which had been damaged by heavy snow loading over the years. Meanwhile, objects conservators, Fran and Lucy renovated the blubber stove and its footings, which was situated in the stables. Captain Oates had used this for months to provide some warmth for the ponies, and to also to heat the mash which they ate. More details of this work, as well as other reports on the conservators' activities, are given in their blog which is carried on the Natural History Museum's website (www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/antarctica/blog/).

The most newsworthy action reported in all the major UK newspapers and other media, and also round the world was at Cape Royds. Here the conservation carpenters' team returned to investigate further the two wooden cases labelled Mackinlay's Whisky which had been found two seasons ago set into the ice underneath the hut. When the ice was carefully removed, it was found that there were in fact three whisky cases, and two brandy cases. Some of the bottles had been broken, to judge by the aroma as the ice's temperature was raised, but it is hoped that some are still intact, and at least part of their original contents are still inside.

Fund-raising in the UK has continued successfully with only around 5% to go to complete the campaign for Scott's hut which had an original estimate of £3.5 million.

said, *'I'm going outside and may be some time.'* He went out into the blizzard and we have not seen him since ... We knew that poor Oates was walking to his death, but though we tried to dissuade him, we knew it was the act of a brave man and an English gentleman. It was Oates' 32nd birthday.

York Museum Trust exhibits a tin of Rowntree's Elect Cocoa that has been almost all the way to the south pole and back. It is one of the unused stores brought back by Sir Ernest Shackleton, from his failed attempt to reach the South Pole in 1909. The cocoa was made by Rowntree, the famous York chocolate manufacturer. The tin was donated to the museum by a lady who had known Shackleton's family and they were given this tin by one of his sisters. It bears a handwritten label which reads *'This tin of cocoa is one of the unused stores brought back by Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition from the Antarctic'*.



York Museums Trust (York Castle Museum)



Scott Polar Research Institute.

Particularly notable were several large individual donations received during autumn 2009, thanks both to the generosity of the donors, and also in some cases to the continued interest and active support of our Patron Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. In particular we have received a generous donation of £15,000 from Frank Debenham's daughter, Barbara. Quba Clothing held an online auction of a unique sailcloth jacket and bag featuring the map co-ordinates of Captain Scott's Hut and UKAHT logo. The combination raised over £1000 www.quba.com.

All these donations continue to be doubled by the £1 million match funding generosity of the February Foundation. UKAHT's current aim is to raise a further £100,000 (which will be then doubled by the February Foundation) with a major push this spring.

Sponsor Matthias Kunz to climb Mount Kilimanjaro...

Matthias Kunz is, a research student at Newcastle University working on Antarctic glacier change. He is going to climb Africa's highest mountain (5893m above sea level) in aid of the UKAHT and AMECA (www.ameca.org.uk). He hopes to raise £1100 for the Trust. Any money he raises for Scott's hut will be doubled by the February Foundation. You can find out how to sponsor Matthias on www.students.ncl.ac.uk/matthias.kunz/kili, <http://newcastle2kili.com>