

Report from the Ross Sea

Once again a team of four specialist conservators has been braving the long Antarctic midwinter night to conserve some of the thousands of artefacts from Captain Scott's hut at Cape Evans. Jane and Mindy, and Nicola (for the second time) and Georgina from UK, stayed in Antarctica from February to August, and worked on conserving hundreds of individual items. Another team has now arrived in Antarctica, to take over for the summer months. You can catch up with the latest on the Natural History Museum website. They have asked for help in identifying some strange items which they have worked on, and would be delighted if any Bergy Bits reader can say what they are.

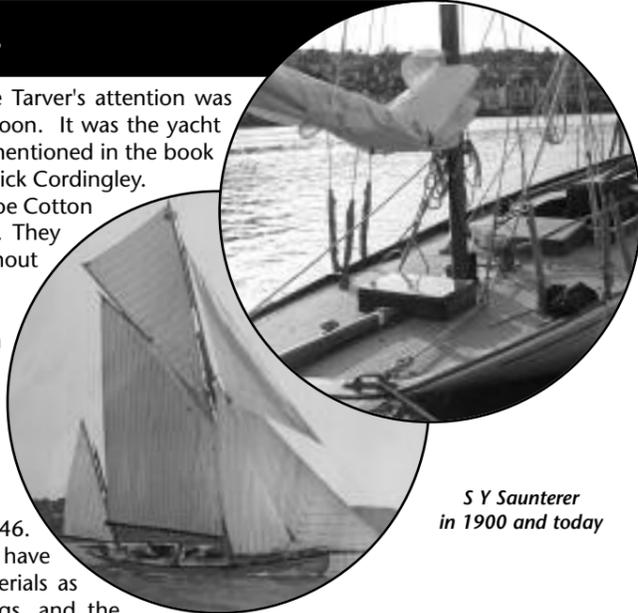
One of the whisky cases found under Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds has been brought out of Antarctica, still frozen. This is strictly for scientific purposes, of course, as required by the Antarctic Treaty. The entire case has been carefully thawed at Canterbury Museum in New Zealand. Intriguingly, it contains not 12 but only 11 bottles. (Does anyone know what happened to the missing one?) The 11 bottles are intact, and appear to be full of whisky. They, and the rest of the museum's collection, have not been damaged by the Christchurch earthquake. It is hoped to carry out a thorough analysis of some of the bottles' contents. This will be the first ever whisky to be analysed after being kept at Antarctic temperatures for over 100 years, so there should be considerable interest in the result. Especially so, as the original recipe has been lost.

Titus Oates' Yacht Restored...

While walking on the quayside at Dartmouth, this year, Mike Tarver's attention was drawn to a beautiful classic yacht moored at the town pontoon. It was the yacht once owned by Captain L.E.G. Oates of Antarctic fame and mentioned in the book on his life, 'Captain Oates, Soldier and Explorer' by Sue Limb and Patrick Cordingley. (See photograph on p.114) The yacht is now owned by Guy and Chloe Cotton and based on the River Dart, and who bought her in March, 2009. They wanted a vessel to live on and came across Saunterer, initially without knowing her history.

Saunterer was commissioned in 1899 for a Mr. John Simpson, built in Cowes by Charles Sibbick and launched on the 27th March, 1900. She is 60ft including bowsprit and bumpkin, with a draught of 6ft 8". She is constructed of teak planking on oak frames with a lead keel and yellow pine deck. The original owner sold her to Captain L.E.G. Oates in about 1905 and after his death in 1912, she passed to B.W.G.

Various owners ensued, with a petrol engine fitted sometime before 1946. Since acquiring Saunterer in 2009, Guy who is a shipwright, and Chloe have carried out an extensive refit, re-using as much of the original materials as possible, including the original rudder stock with other deck fittings, and the gimballed table at which Captain Oates would have sat. The decks have been re-fastened and re-caulked. The only difference is that they have altered her from a gaff rigged yawl to Bermudan rig to make her more manageable for a two man crew. Guy and Chloe, since becoming aware of Saunterer's famous past have become committed Antarctic historians. Oates, probably Bryan, his brother until after World War One. *Report from Mike Tarver with data from the Cottons.*



S Y Saunterer
in 1900 and today

What's on...

- **Thursday 14 October at 7.30**, Scott: Hero or Loser? by seasoned explorer Geoff Somers at de Courcy's, Pentyrch, Cardiff. Tickets £27 to include Cava reception and full buffet. Contact bjwatbox@btinternet.com
 - **Fri 15 October**, Discovery Dinner at The Apex City Quay Hotel, Dundee, with after dinner speaker is Mark Beaumont, record-breaking long-distance Scottish cyclist. Also entertainment, auction and raffle. All proceeds will go towards for the ongoing protection and restoration of RRS Discovery. Tickets £50 each. Contact Val King on 01382 309060 or email admin@dundeheritage.co.uk
 - **Wed, 20 October 7pm (doors open 6pm)** Rock, ice and eggs - The Science of Scott's last expedition at the Royal Geographical Society, London. Lecture by Andy Clarke and Meredith Hooper in aid of Fuchs Foundation and marking the centenary of Captain Scott's final expedition. Andy Clarke is a retired scientist of British Antarctic Survey and Meredith Hooper, UKAHT Trustee and author of the recently published *The Longest Winter: Scott's Other Heroes*. Tickets for the lecture £15, or for lecture and reception £35. Tel 01455 202207 or email peter@fuchsfoundation.org.
 - **22-25 October 10th** Athy Shackleton Autumn School, Co. Kildare, Lectures by Tim Baughman, Chet Ross, Meredith Hooper, Mike Tarver, David Thomas. Email Ann@athyheritagecentre-museum.ie
 - **Thurs 28 October 7.30pm** at Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club, on Plymouth Hoe, talk by ex BAS vet Andrew Bellars, Devon and Cornwall Polar Society. Email paul@daviesdev.freeserve.co.uk
- The Friends of SPRI Lecture Series at 8pm (doors open 7.30) in the SPRI lecture theatre, Cambridge. Entry FREE to Friends or £5 on the door to non Friends.
- **16th October**, Sir Hubert Wilkins - Forgotten Hero? by Jim McNeill, Arctic Explorer
 - **30th October**, Melting Ice - Rising Seas, by Dr Colin Summerhayes, Emeritus Assoc. SPRI
 - **27th November**, The Northern Party - In the shadows of the Heroic Age by Robin Back, Chair Friends of SPRI
 - **Also: Sat 13th November, 4pm** (doors open 3.30), Preview of Ponting's 90 degree South, the digitally remastered film of the Terra Nova expedition, at the BMS lecture theatre in the Chemistry Dept., opp the entrance to SPRI. 2 hour lecture and film show.
- Centenary exhibitions currently running in Dundee, Swansea, Canterbury New Zealand, AMNH New York, See www.scott100.org for details of these and other up-coming events. And for last minute items look on our Facebook page via www.ukaht.org.

Bergy Bits

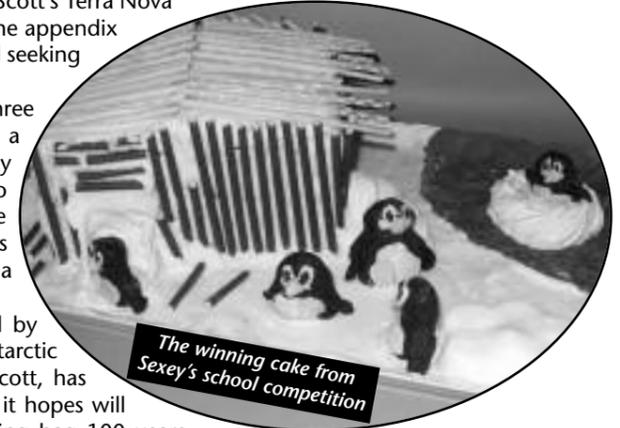
The Newsletter of the Friends of Antarctica

Donations from Schools

100 years ago, several schools throughout Britain made donations towards Captain Scott's Terra Nova expedition. Their money paid for ponies, dogs, sledges, tents, and even sleeping bags, all essential equipment for the expedition. We decided to ask the same schools, 100 years later, to help preserve Scott's Terra Nova hut and contents. We traced 31 of the original contributors, as listed in the appendix to Scott's Last Expedition, and sent them letters describing the project and seeking their support.

So far nine of the schools have said they want to help, of whom three have already sent donations. Marlborough College, which had donated a tent in 1910, made the project one of the charities for their Super Sunday charity fund-raising event, held in memory of one of their teachers who had died on Ben Nevis, and raised no less than £1,000 for our project. The Leys School, Cambridge, which had donated a sledge in 1910, gave us another £1,000. Kelvinside Academy, Glasgow, which had also donated a sledge, has given us £500.

Sexey's School, which in 1910 had donated the sleeping bag used by Wilson, has already held a cake sale (the cakes decorated with an Antarctic theme). Cophthorne Preparatory school, which had given a sledge to Scott, has made the project one of the beneficiaries of its sponsored swim, which it hopes will raise a considerable sum. Worksop College donated Debenham's sleeping bag 100 years ago, and one of their current sixth form girls, who last Christmas became the youngest person to walk the last 112 miles to the South Pole, showed further enterprise by organising a fund-raising event for the project in November. Three further schools have expressed general interest in helping the project, and we shall be following up with them and others. As in Captain Scott's own day, his name and his expedition still fascinate and inspire the younger generation.



End of an era, start of a new beginning

For fourteen years the staff running the museum at Port Lockroy have been living in the old bunk room in the museum almost as living artefacts. Although this has often provided entertainment for the visitors - 'do you really live in here?' - it has been far from ideal within the context of managing a historic site. It reduced the space to exhibit artefacts and tell the story of Port Lockroy as well as bring in moisture from cooking and living inside the building. Last season the Trust took a major step towards providing simple comfortable staff accommodation through rebuilding the Nissen Hut, so freeing up the bunk room in the museum for exhibits.

The team running Port Lockroy this season really has a European flair with Hannele from Finland, Ylva from Germany (living in Holland) as well as Nikki and Hen (from the UK) who both speak a number of languages. Most visitors will be understood in their mother tongue!

Mike Powell and Liesl Scherthanner will also be based at Port Lockroy to complete work on internal fixtures, fittings and decoration before moving on to complete the works at Wordie House and Damoy refuge. Then they will be joined by Dave Burkitt and Anna Malaos to work on Detalle Island for the second half of the season. This awesome foursome collectively have 26 years spent in the Antarctic between them.

Anna Malaos who was base leader at Port Lockroy last season is now working for the Trust full time. She is based at the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) in Cambridge and responsible for working up and implementing plans for artefact conservation and interpretation. Visitors to Port Lockroy will see the results of her work this season and in the future.



The 2010/11 team almost in full: Tudor Morgan (Operations Manager), Rachel Morgan (Director), Mike Powell, Anna Malaos, and Dave Burkitt (Detalle team) (missing from this is Liesl Scherthanner). Sitting: Nikki Rickett (Port Lockroy Team Leader), Hen Joanniddi, Ylva Grams, Hannele Luukkainen (photo by Ian, the Postman).



Anna Malaos, UKAHT's
conservation and
interpretation manager

New Quba Range of clothing celebrates Captain Scott

We are delighted that Quba is launching a unique range of clothing and accessories to mark Scott's centenary with a proportion of the sales proceeds coming to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Look out for more on www.quba.com

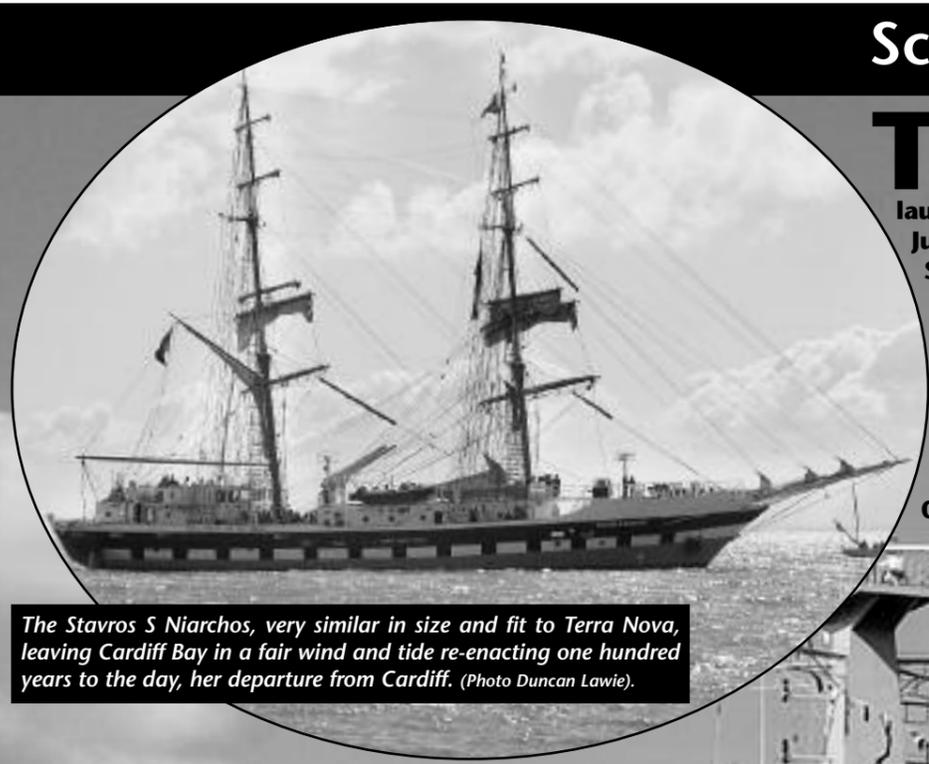


Scott Centenary

The centenary celebrations of Captain Scott's Terra Nova expedition (1910-1913) launched in style in Cardiff in mid-June. Galvanised by the Captain Scott Society, Cardiff embraced the celebrations with a collections of dinners, receptions, exhibitions, and lectures. A similar weekend will take place next 4/5/6 June 2011 in Plymouth. See www.scott100.org or phone 01752 586005 for further details.

The Stavros S Niarchos, very similar in size and fit to Terra Nova, leaving Cardiff Bay in a fair wind and tide re-enacting one hundred years to the day, her departure from Cardiff. (Photo Duncan Lawie).

In front of the Cardiff Scott Memorial and the Norwegian Church, Chris Hall of Typhoo hands over a cheque for £20,000 to Philippa Foster Back. This is the amount arising from sales so far of Captain Scott's Strong Blend. The tea continues to be on sale in Tesco Extra. They are joined by David Wilson, Martin Wilson, the Captain and officers of HMS Scott]



Philippa Foster Back, Chairman of UKAHT, gives an Antarctic tartan rug to Captain Gary Hesling and his wife. Captain Hesling provided delicious coffee and cake to Friends of the Trust aboard HMS Scott on Sunday morning, one hundred years after Captain Scott and his crew were looked after by the City of Cardiff.

HMS Scott, deep water ocean survey vessel and sixth largest ship in the Royal Navy, in Roath Dock, Cardiff. HMS Scott was present across the whole long weekend of celebrations, receiving over 3000 visitors as well hosting a number of small events for dignitaries and VIPs. At 13,500 tons and 430ft long. With her 71ft beam and 27ft draught, she only had a yard leeway each side and underneath as she edged her way in and out of Roath Dock. She is believed to be the largest naval ship ever to visit Cardiff. The Stavros S Niarchos, with dimensions approximately half that of HMS Scott is dwarfed in the background. She was waved off with three cheers by the crew of HMS Scott and the band of the Royal Marines. HMS Scott had returned from Antarctic deployment, part of her role being to assist the work of Trust on the Peninsula. She will return this season with similar tasking. (photo: David Wilson)