

The last volume of the expedition newspaper, South Polar Times, written by the men waiting for news of Captain Scott's return from the South Pole in the Antarctic winter of 1912, has just been published in a limited edition by the Scott Polar Research Institute. The journal was written and produced during Scott's 1910-13 Terra Nova expedition to Antarctica, during the winter of 1912 when those remaining at the base camp at Cape Evans knew that Scott and his Pole party stood no chance of survival and must have perished somewhere south... Although there are attempts at humour and the text is enlivened with quirky illustrations, the loss of Scott and the other four members of the Polar Party overshadows this issue, put together to maintain morale during the long Polar night.

In 1959, former Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute, Frank Debenham, (our Chairman's grandfather) who had been the expedition's geologist noted, 'It is noticeable that there is no reference whatever to the fate or the personnel of the Pole Party or even of the Northern Party though the preparations for the search next sledging season was the main pre-occupation of all hands.'

This new volume includes a full colour facsimile of the illustrated typescript of South Polar Times, volume IV, dated Midwinter Day 1912. It was originally edited by Apsley Cherry-Garrard, famous as the author of The Worst Journey in the World.



The exceptionally bad weather, which was to prove Scott's eventual downfall, was noted even at the base camp. Cherry-Garrard wrote in his Editorial, 'The winds recorded here last year were considered high, but those of this year have put them to shame, and in many parts the ice has not become strong enough to withstand the Blizzards. The last blizzard, which lasted into its eighth day was a record for Cape Evans which we do not wish to see broken'.

South Polar Times IV, held in the Archives of the Scott Polar Research Institute, is published here for the first time, with an authoritative introduction by polar historian, Ann Shirley Savours, covering both of Captain Scott's Antarctic expeditions.

Extensive explanatory notes on the contents of this and the three earlier volumes of the South Polar Times (from 1902, 3, and 11) are accompanied by biographical details on the members of the expeditions who contributed to the original productions and notes on the expedition vessels Discovery, Morning, and Terra Nova.

The book has been published in association with John Bonham in a limited edition of 500. It is available at the promotional price of £250 (+P&P) until the end of May (normal price £275) as long as you mention you saw it Bergy Bits. Where possible the publishers will allocate the same number as the earlier volumes you may already own. Proceeds of the sale of this volume will support the work of the Scott Polar Research Institute. For further details, please call 01223 336548 or email shop@spri.cam.ac.uk.

# Bergy Bits

## The Newsletter of the Friends of Antarctica

### Ross Sea Huts News

The work of conservation is continuing at Scott's Hut at Cape Evans on Ross Island. A new team of four specialist conservators has now taken up residence at New Zealand's Scott Base, to work over the Antarctic winter on a wide range of artefacts, from wooden boxes for food storage to woollen socks, which have been temporarily removed from the hut. They continue to report on their work, in blogs posted on the Natural History Museum's website.



The fascinating aroma of historic whisky has again excited the nostrils of press and public. Whyte & Mackay announced on 4 April that they are creating a replica of the Mackinlay's whisky found in the ice under Shackleton's hut at Cape Royds, where three wooden cases had lain untouched for over 100 years. Three intact bottles from one of the cases were brought by special private jet to Scotland for study and analysis. The aircraft was provided by Dr Vijay Mallya, owner of Whyte & Mackay, which now has the Mackinlay's brand, and Dr Mallya personally collected the bottles. The bottles travelled under the watchful eye of Richard Paterson, Whyte & Mackay's Master Blender, who was responsible for identifying and replicating the whisky's character and properties. The replica whisky will sell at £100 per bottle, and from this the NZ Antarctic Heritage Trust will receive a donation of £5 for each bottle sold.

A strong earthquake struck Christchurch, New Zealand, on 22 February, causing much damage and many deaths. The New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust, which is based in Christchurch, was fortunate that none of its staff were injured, nor were its premises seriously damaged. It has been able to continue operations after a short interruption. The Trust is most grateful for the many expressions of sympathy and concern it received from friends and well-wishers.

### Other Snippets...

**B**EN FOGLE entertained a large audience at the Royal Geographical Society on 17 February, when he spoke with energy and enthusiasm about his own recent visit to Antarctica to prepare a documentary for BBC TV about Scott's expedition, his legacy, the hut, and the conservation programme. No date for the airing has yet been confirmed.

**C**HELTENHAM'S art gallery and museum has made a successful funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) winning £750k towards its £6.3 million redevelopment. It only needs another £919k to complete the target. This is great news for the Wilson collection which is better displayed and the archive more publicly accessible. But it does mean that the museum will be closed until late 2012/early 2013.



**Q**UBA CLOTHING continues to support the Trust with donations resulting from sales of its 'Scott Centenary Collection'. A whole new range is planned for next Autumn. In the meantime look out for Quba's new spring collection on [www.quba.com](http://www.quba.com)

### EXHIBITIONS:

- 17 March to Saturday 9 April**, noon to 5.30pm, not Sundays, Cold Places: From Pole to Pole, Award-winning photographer and wildlife filmmaker Sue Flood's solo exhibition, at the Getty Gallery, Eastcastle Street, London W1W 8DX. If you miss the exhibition you can buy Sue's book, Cold Places on [www.sueflood.com](http://www.sueflood.com)
- 8 April to 9 October 2011**, 10-5pm: On Thin Ice: Pioneers of Polar Exploration at the National Maritime Museum, Cornwall 01326 313388 or [www.nmmc.co.uk](http://www.nmmc.co.uk).
- 10 April to 31 October 2011** (2-4.30, not Saturdays): Dr. Murray Levick, local hero, at the Fairlynch Museum, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. 01395 442666 or [www.fairlynchmuseum.org.uk](http://www.fairlynchmuseum.org.uk)
- Until 30 April**: Return to Antarctica: The British Graham Land Expedition, 1934-1937 at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, 01223 336540, [www.spri.cam.ac.uk](http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk)
- From June 2011**, Scott's Last Expedition, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney. (In London January 2012, Canterbury, NZ, November 2012) [www.anmm.gov.au](http://www.anmm.gov.au)

### WHAT'S ON:

- 17 April**, BBC documentary on Captain Scott with Ben Fogle
- 10 May**, 5pm evensong. There will be a dedication of the Antarctic Memorial to commemorate those killed in British Antarctic Territory in service of science in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral, London. The service and dedication will be followed by a self-funding reception at Saddlers' Hall.
- 12 May**, 4pm. The Northern part of the Antarctic Monument will be unveiled outside the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge. Further details for both above from Rod Rhys Jones: [rod@rhysjones.com](mailto:rod@rhysjones.com).

- 20 May**, The South Georgia Association AGM, with a reunion and speaker (probably Tony Martin on the rat eradication campaign) - Royal Overseas League, London. Tickets and details [franprince@btinternet.com](mailto:franprince@btinternet.com).
- 24 May - 19 June**, Tuesday - Sats 7.30, Sundays 4pm, Aidan Dooley will perform his play on Tom Crean at the Waterloo East Theatre, London, [www.waterlooeast.co.uk](http://www.waterlooeast.co.uk), 020 7928 0060
- 25 May**, 7.30, Jenny Coverack's play on Kathleen Scott: A Father for my Son, at The Public Hall, Budleigh Salterton, Devon
- 5 June**, 7.30, Jenny Coverack's play on Kathleen Scott: A Father for my Son, at The Roland Levinsky Building (LT1), University of Plymouth, as part of the Scott weekend below.
- 4 - 6 June**, Scott Centenary Weekend based at the Peninsula Arts Centre, University of Plymouth, Lectures, exhibitions, plays, music, art, tours, dinners. The place to be for any polar enthusiast... Scott's home town on his birthday! 01752 586005, [www.plymouth.gov.uk/scott100](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/scott100).
- 6 June**, Plymouth Polar Science conference, University of Plymouth, [www.scott100.org/events/2333/](http://www.scott100.org/events/2333/)
- 7 June**, UK Polar Network day, Royal Plymouth Corinthian Yacht Club, 01223 221359, [www.polarnetwork.org](http://www.polarnetwork.org)
- 7 - 9 Sept**, Managing Industrial and Cultural Heritage: South Georgia in Context Discovery Point, Dundee, a conference organised by the South Georgia Heritage Trust, [www.sght.org](http://www.sght.org)
- 10 Sept - 1 October**, Scott Scholarships Sledge Pull: 2 sledge relays 5 sledges 22 days 100 schools 2500 participants 2000+ miles = 100+ Scott scholarships. A sledge pull relay from Land's End - John O'Groats - London - Cardiff to create Scott Expedition Scholarships for your school or youth group. 01823 253349, [www.sss100.org](http://www.sss100.org)

What's on...

# AHT gets going on the Peninsula

It was another busy season at Base A, Port Lockroy with 13,750 visitors enjoying the delights of the museum and the restored bunk room. Despite huge snowfall at the start of the season and bad weather, the Nissen hut interior was finished during the first half of the season along with improvements and repairs to the museum. The Nissen hut was officially opened during the visit of HMS Scott by Lt Cdr Phil Newell and Dafila Scott (granddaughter of Captain Scott). The Trust is hugely grateful to Hurtigruten Fram and other IAATO vessels for their continued logistical support.



Biscoe House, Base B, where the first Operation Tabarin base was established, was destroyed by a mudflow from the volcanic eruption on Deception Island in 1969. Although it is one of the listed historic sites, it is considered beyond active repair but AHT is pushing for on site interpretation.



Damoymy refuge is now in tip top condition with the roof recovered, doors and windows maintained and the exterior repainted.



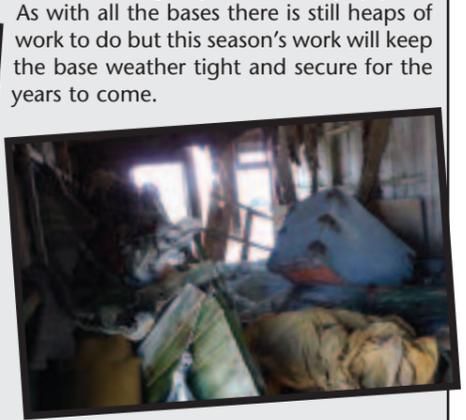
Reclus Hut, also known as Portal Point, was built in 1956 on an exposed area of rock close to the sea on the tip of Cape Reclus on the Antarctic Peninsula. In 1957, three men from Danco Island (Base O) wintered in the small hut in order to carry out local survey work. In 1996 it was removed and rebuilt at Stanley Museum.



The Trust carried out major renovation at Wordie Hut, Argentine Islands, Base F, last year. Further works on the interior are needed.



The major project for the season was to make Base W on Detaille Island weather proof and structurally secure. Although the base was untouched since it was abandoned in 1959 and was still structurally in good shape, visitors over the past few years had noticed a marked deterioration in the contents of the building with lots of snow and ice getting into the building. After almost six weeks on site the team of four managed to recover the roof, repair the windows and doors, get some dry air through the building to dry it out, as well as work on the emergency shelter and pup pens.



Horseshoe, Base Y, built in 1955 to replace Stonington (due to poor access for ships) was occupied for five years. But poor access from here to the Peninsula, was the reason for its closure and return to Stonington. Since then it has been preserved mainly by winter field parties from Rothera and a work party in 1997 recovering the roof. Thus it is the best preserved of all the Peninsula bases. AHT will undertake works in future seasons.



As with all the bases there is still heaps of work to do but this season's work will keep the base weather tight and secure for the years to come.

