



Athy Heritage Centre-Museum presents the
11th
ERNEST SHACKLETON
AUTUMN SCHOOL
28th-31st October 2011

Lectures - Exhibitions - Drama - Film - Music - Excursion



Sir Ernest Shackleton

Born close to the village of Kilkea, between Castledermot and Athy, in the south of County Kildare in 1874, Ernest Shackleton is renowned for his courage, his commitment to the welfare of his comrades, and his immense contribution to exploration and geographical discovery. The Shackleton family first came to south Kildare in the early years of the eighteenth century. Ernest's Quaker forefather, Abraham Shackleton, established a multi-denominational school in the village of Ballitore. This school was to educate such notable figures as Napper Tandy, Edmund Burke, Cardinal Paul Cullen and Shackleton's great aunt, the Quaker writer, Mary Leadbeater. Apart from their involvement in education, the extended family was also deeply involved in the business and farming life of south Kildare.

Having gone to sea as a teenager, Shackleton joined Captain Scott's Discovery expedition (1901 – 1904) and, in time, was to lead three of his own expeditions to the Antarctic. His Endurance expedition (1914 – 1916) has become known as one of the great epics of human survival. He died in 1922, at South Georgia, on his fourth expedition to the Antarctic, and – on his wife's instructions – was buried there.

Athy Heritage Centre-Museum

Athy Heritage Centre was established to celebrate the history of the area. It houses material and audio-visual programmes that chronicle the ancient, medieval and post 16th century lives and achievements of the people of the town and its hinterland.

Athy Heritage Centre is home to the only permanent exhibition anywhere devoted to Ernest Shackleton. Highlights include an original sledge and harness from his Antarctic expeditions, a 15-foot model of Shackleton's ship Endurance, an exhibition of unique Shackleton family photographs and an audio-visual display featuring Frank Hurley's film footage of the Endurance expedition.

The Centre also houses material on the Great War and its effects on Athy; and the Gordon-Bennett race, which is celebrated annually in the town.

Highlight of the year, at the Centre, is the Shackleton Autumn School, the only Polar School in Ireland, which was established to commemorate the explorer in the county of his birth. It provides a forum for discussion and debate on polar exploration and the presentation of artistic works relevant to Shackleton and his time.



FRIDAY, 28th October

Official Opening & Exhibition Launch

The school will be opened by His Excellency,

Mr Ronald Næss,

Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland.

7.30pm

in **Athy Heritage Centre - Museum**

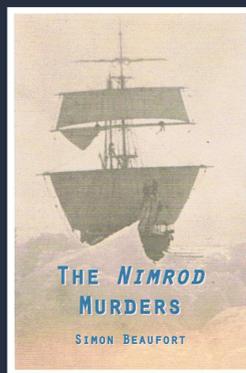
Book Launch

8.00pm

in **Athy Heritage Centre - Museum**

In association with the Erskine Press the school will host the launch of Simon Beaufort's book

'The Nimrod Murders.'



Exhibition

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

Saturday & Sunday: 10.00am – 5.00pm

Bank Holiday Monday, 31st Oct.: 10.00am – 2.00pm

COLD RECALL - REFLECTIONS OF A POLAR EXPLORER, ROALD AMUNDSEN

The exhibition was developed by the Fram Museum, Oslo, Norway to showcase images from the lantern slides that Roald Amundsen used in public lectures about his expeditions through the Northwest Passage and to the South Pole with particular emphasis on Amundsen's expedition to the South Pole. The texts in the exhibition are primarily abridged versions of Amundsen's own manuscripts from these lectures. The exhibition is also complemented by Amundsen material from a number of private collections



ANTARCTIC ADVENTURERS - The Antarctic adventurers will recreate a three man sledging party from the early years of Antarctic exploration.

SATURDAY 29th October

Lecture Series

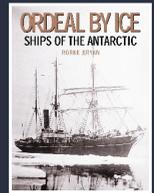
Athy Library

- 10.00am *"Notes from a Shackleton Scholar: Heritage Tourism in the South Atlantic"*
Emma Jane McAdam Admission €7
- 11.30am *"Murder on Shackleton's Nimrod: Writing Antarctic Fiction"*
Beau Riffenburgh & Liz Cruwys Admission €7
- 2.00pm *"Roald Amundsen's and his crew members' South Pole Diaries"*
Geir Kløver Admission €7

Book Launch

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

- 3.00pm In association with the Collins Press the school will host the launch of *'Ordeal by Ice: Ships of the Antarctic'* by Rorke Bryan.
The book will be launched by the Hon. Alexandra Shackleton.



Lecture Series

Athy Library

- 4pm *"The Lost Photographs of Captain Scott"*
David Wilson Admission €7

Dinner

Carlton Abbey Hotel, Athy

- 8.00pm *Autumn School Dinner*
Tickets €40

SUNDAY 30th October

Lecture Series

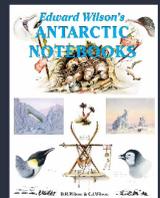
Athy Library

- 10.00am *"The Cinematic Race to the Pole"*
Jan Anders Diesen Admission €7

Book Launch

Athy Library

- 11.00am In association with Reardon Publishing the school will host the launch of *'Edward Wilson's Antarctic Notebooks'* by David & Christopher Wilson



Lecture Series

Athy Library

- 12 noon *"Did Shackleton Care about Science?"*
Dr Edward J Larson Admission €7

Film

2.30pm

"The Great White Silence"

Captain Scott described Herbert Ponting as 'an artist in love with his work', and after the expedition's tragic outcome Ponting devoted the rest of his life to ensuring that the grandeur of the Antarctic and expedition's heroism would not be forgotten - the images that he captured have fired imaginations ever since. The BFI National Archive - custodian of the expedition negatives - has restored the film using the latest photochemical and digital techniques and reintroduced the sophisticated use of colour. The alien beauty of the landscape is brought dramatically to life, showing the world of the expedition in brilliant detail.

Presented by Luke McKernan

Athy Library

Admission €7

Lecture Series

4.30pm

Open forum chaired by Bob Headland

Athy Library

Free Admission

Drama

9.00pm

"Catalpa" Based on the true story of the daring whaleship rescue of six Irish prisoners from Fremantle penal colony in 1876, *Catalpa* is a story in the great epic tradition of *Moby Dick* and *Gone With The Wind* - with a passing glance at *The Great Escape*. Donal O'Kelly plays over thirty characters in this one-man epic, including the mastermind of the *Catalpa* mission - Kildareman John Devoy.

Written and performed by Donal O'Kelly,
with live music by Trevor Knight.

Athy Community Arts Centre

Admission €10

MONDAY 31st October

Field Trip

10.00am

Bus tour through Shackleton country. A Visit to Ballitore and the home of Mary Leadbeater, writer and ancestor of Ernest Shackleton, the Quaker Meeting House and the Shaker Store.

Assemble at the Heritage Centre - Museum

Fare €10

Shackleton Challenge

During the 2011/2012 academic year, the Shackleton Autumn School Committee will run a pilot 'Shackleton Challenge' programme in conjunction with Athy Community College. The programme will support one of the Leaving Certificate options offered by the College to facilitate students, through active participation in the design, planning and delivery of a project to better understand the requirements of leadership, teamwork and individual contributions. The programme pays tribute to the recognised strengths of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his strong connection with the Athy area.

CONTRIBUTORS

Emma Jane McAdam

A Falkland Islander by birth, Emma Jane returned to the Islands to carry out the research for her undergraduate dissertation in the Falkland Islands Archives. In 2000, Emma Jane was awarded a Shackleton Scholarship to carry out the research for her postgraduate degree in the Islands, focusing on the potential for heritage tourism in the Falklands. Her work and subsequent report was instrumental in the establishment of the Visitor Centre in Stanley. As a museum professional, Emma Jane has worked in the Scottish museum sector for almost 10 years and is currently Curator at the University of St Andrews.

Dr Beau Riffenburgh

Dr Beau Riffenburgh is a historian affiliated with the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge. His research specialises in the history of exploration, particularly that of the Antarctic, Arctic, and Africa. A native Californian, he had a successful career in publishing before moving to Cambridge, where he earned his PhD and then served for 15 years as the Editor of *Polar Record*. His books about exploration include the critically acclaimed “Myth of the Explorer”; “Nimrod”, the account of Ernest Shackleton’s first expedition; and the award-winning two-volume “Encyclopedia of the Antarctic”. He has more recently published two books about Douglas Mawson and his Australasian Antarctic Expedition.

Dr Liz Cruwys

Dr Liz Cruwys is a marine biologist from the University of Cambridge, whose academic research investigates environmental contamination in pinnipeds. She has also conducted research into medieval history and architecture, and has written books on castles and cathedrals. This medieval background and her experience on the Leeds police force have given her important insights for the 25 mystery novels she has published under the pseudonym Susanna Gregory. Including her scholarly works, she has written or contributed to more than 60 books, including nine novels with Beau Riffenburgh under the pseudonym Simon Beaufort.

Geir O. Kløver

Geir has been the director of the Fram Museum in Oslo since 2005. He has recently edited and published the diaries of Roald Amundsen and 14 of the other crew members of the Norwegian South Pole Expedition 1910-12. He is currently editing the collected diaries of Fridtjof Nansen and the crew members of the First Fram Expedition. From 1997 to 2005, Geir worked as project director in a Norwegian human rights NGO providing media and communication support to Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. He worked primarily on projects related to Tibet, Burma, East Timor, the Korean peninsula and the AIDS issue.

Dr David Wilson

David is a great nephew of Dr Edward A. Wilson, who perished with Captain Scott’s polar party. David has a long association with polar matters. The author of a number of books, his most recent is “The Lost Photographs of Captain Scott”. He makes frequent trips to the Antarctic as a historian and ornithological field guide and he is currently Chairman of the Scott 100 Centenary Committee.

Christopher Wilson

Chris is a great nephew of Dr Edward A. Wilson. Before taking early retirement, Chris worked for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, serving as warden of Ireland’s premier wildfowl reserve, “Wexford Wildfowl Reserve”. He regularly contributes to a wide number of wildlife magazines, makes radio and television programs and is an accomplished photographer. His publica-

tions include: "High Skies - Low Lands - An Anthology of The Wexford Slobs and Harbour" and "Wildfile - A Guide to Irish Wildlife". Chris lectures extensively on birds and other wildlife groups of Antarctica, Ireland and Australia.

Rorke Bryan

Rorke Bryan has had a lifelong interest in Antarctica, triggered by seeing 'Scott of the Antarctic' as an eight-year old in his native Dublin. The son of a merchant mariner, he has visited many parts of the world during his career with the British Antarctic Survey and in environmental conservation, forestry and development at the Universities of Alberta and Toronto. His interests include sailing, mountaineering and skiing.

Dr. Jan Anders Diesen

Professor of film history at Lillehammer University College, Norway, Jan Anders is an expert on silent Norwegian films and on documentary films. For the last 5 years he has been researching the silent films from polar expeditions, and has published books and articles on Roald Amundsen's films. To put these Norwegian films into an international context, he has over last three years visited polar archives around the world. He is currently working on a book on explorer's films from Borchgrevink, Fiala and Bruce to Amundsen, Nobile and Byrd.

Dr Edward J. Larson

He is the Professor of History and holds the Hugh & Hazel Darling Chair in Law at Pepperdine University, California, USA. His many books include "Summer for the Gods - The Scopes Trial" and "America's Continuing Debate over Science and Religion" for which he received the Pulitzer Prize in History: "Evolutions Workshop: God and Science on the Galapago's Islands" and he has just published "An Empire of Ice: Scott, Shackleton, and the Heroic Age of Antarctic Science".

Luke McKernan

Luke McKernan is Lead Curator, Moving Image, at the British Library. He is a film archivist and a historian of early and non-fiction film, with a particular interest in films of travel and exploration. He has written books on newsreels, 1890s film and Shakespearean film, and his polar publications include a chapter on Antarctic filmmaking in "South: The Race to the Pole", and the commentary on the BFI DVD release of South: Sir Ernest Shackleton's Glorious Epic of the Antarctic.

Bob Headland

Bob is a senior research associate of the Scott Polar Research Institute of the University of Cambridge. He specialises in the history and geography of both polar regions. His work with the Antarctic Heritage Trust involves the preservation of the historical huts and other aspects associated with the exploration of the discovery of the Antarctic. His most recent publication is "A Chronology of Antarctic Exploration".

Donal O'Kelly

Donal O'Kelly is a writer and actor. His plays include his solo shows Catalpa, Jimmy Joyced! and Bat the Father Rabbit the Son. Other plays are The Cambria, The Adventures Of The Wet Señor, Vive La, Operation Easter, Asylum! Asylum!, The Dogs, Farawayan and The Hand. As an actor, he has appeared in Translations, Juno and the Paycock and The Tempest in the Abbey, played Lucky in the Gate Theatre's Waiting For Godot, and on screen played leading roles in Kings, The Van and Spin The Bottle, as well as RTE's Paths to Freedom and Fair City.

Antarctic Adventurers

The Antarctic Adventures are a group of British re-enactors who specialise in recreating the world of Shackleton, Scott and Amundsen. They perform regularly for museums and English Heritage. They recreate a three man sledging party of the 1901 - 1913 period with clothing, sledges and equipment of the time used by Scott and Shackleton.



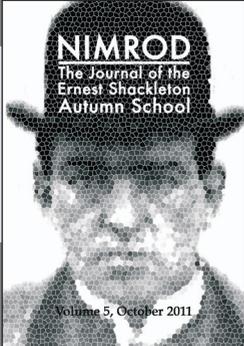
Mary Leadbeater's House in Ballitore part of the Field trip on Monday.



Antarctic Adventurers appearing during the Shackleton Autumn School



Scale model of the Endurance in Athy Heritage Centre - Museum



“Nimrod” Vol 5

will be on sale with back issues of
Volumes 1, 2, 3 & 4

The Ernest Shackleton Autumn School

is a project of Athy Heritage Centre - Museum.

For information and booking contact:

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum,

and Tourist Information Point,

Town Hall, Emily Square, Athy, Co. Kildare.

Tel: 059 - 8633075. Fax: 059 - 8633076.

Email: athyheritage@eircom.net

Websites: www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie, www.shackletonmuseum.com

ALL EVENTS INCLUSIVE FEE

Full Autumn School: €95

Lectures: €7, student/unwaged/OAP: €5

The Heritage Centre - Museum and its Shackleton School team would like to thank our funding bodies and sponsors whose support makes this event possible. These include the Kildare County Library Service, Athy Town Council, Kildare County Council, Norwegian Embassy in Dublin, Diageo and Failte Ireland.



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