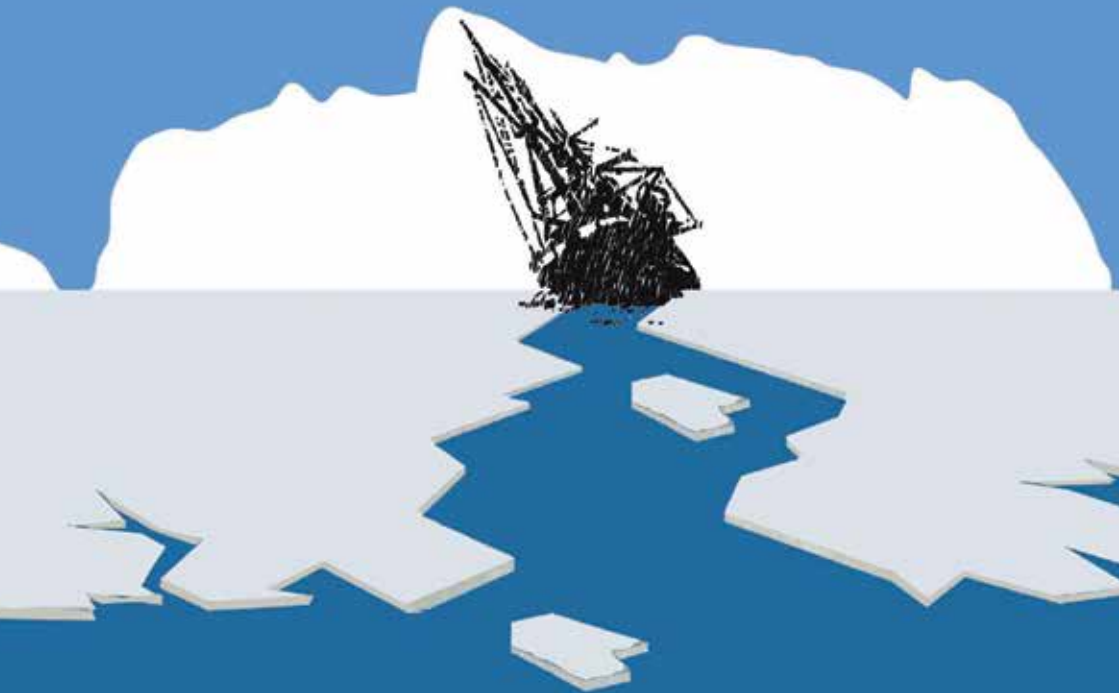


THE FOURTEENTH
E R N E S T
SHACKLETON
AUTUMN SCHOOL

24- 27TH OCTOBER 2014



ATHY HERITAGE CENTRE MUSEUM

LECTURES • EXHIBITION • FILM • DRAMA • EXCURSIONS
***ENDURANCE* CENTENARY PERFORMANCE**

www.shackletonmuseum.com/autumn_school/2014 . Tel: (059) 863 3075



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-Museum 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 24th October

Official Opening

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

& Exhibition Launch by

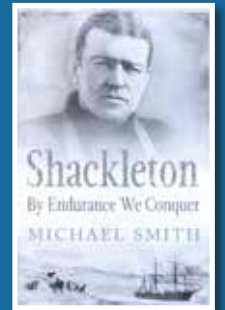
7.30pm Mr Peter Carey, Chief Executive of Kildare County Council

Book Launch

8.00pm In association with the Collins Press the school will host the launch of ***Shackleton: By Endurance We Conquer*** by Michael Smith.

The book is the first comprehensive biography of Shackleton in a generation.

The book will be launched by Aidan Dooley, actor, writer, director and the creator of the acclaimed one man show, "Tom Crean - Antarctic Explorer".



Daily Exhibitions

Saturday & Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

Bank Holiday Monday 10.00am - 2.00pm

"The Crossing of Antarctica: Photographs from the Journey that Fulfilled Shackleton's Dream"

The exhibition tells the story of the epic first crossing of Antarctica by the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (TAE) of 1955-58. The exhibition is drawn from the new book created by Huw Lewis-Jones, and published by Thames & Hudson this year, and is being shown for the first time in Ireland.

The exhibition features prints from original film in the collection of pioneering expedition photographer, the late George Lowe, and is complemented by selected objects from other private collections.

Antarctic Adventurers

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



SATURDAY 25th October

Lecture Series

Athy Library

- 10.00am** "The Crossing of Antarctica: The Expedition that Fulfilled Shackleton's Dream"
Huw Lewis-Jones Adm. €10
- 10.50am** TEA/COFFEE
- 11.20am** "Antarctica Then and Now: A Continent Tamed?"
Rorke Bryan Adm. €10
- 12.10pm** "Shackleton – A Life"
Michael Smith in conversation with Joe O'Farrell Adm. €10
- 1.00pm** LUNCH
- 2.10pm** "Shipwreck at Cape Flora: The Expeditions of Benjamin Leigh Smith, Englands Forgotten Arctic Explorer"
P J Capelotti Adm. €10
- 3.00pm** "On the Natural History of Arctic Fauna: A Correspondence between James Lamont and Charles Darwin, 1860 to 1871"
Leah Devlin Adm. €10
- 4.00pm** "Icebreakers"
A series of short presentations on topics relevant to the Shackleton Autumn School, presented by those with a passion for their subject. Adm. Free
- Dinner** **De Burgh Manor, Athy**
- 8.00pm** Autumn School Dinner Tickets €40

SUNDAY 26th October

Lecture Series

Athy Library

- 10.00am** "Thar She Blows: A whaler's fortuitous legacy"
Dinah Molloy Adm. €10
- 10.50am** TEA/COFFEE
- 11.20am** "Shackleton – A Life in Poetry"
Jim Mayer Adm. €10
- 12.10pm** "The Bellingshausen opportunity: the Russian Antarctic Expedition, 1819-1821"
Rip Bulkeley Adm. €10
- 1.00pm** LUNCH

2.00pm "Never the lowered banner – The Shackleton Epic Expedition"
Tim Jarvis Adm. €10

Film

Athy Library

- 3.00pm** "The Island at the Top of the World"
Released in 1974 this Walt Disney film is in the adventure fantasy tradition of Jules Verne. The protagonists, an American archaeologist, an English businessman, an eccentric French inventor and an Eskimo trapper journey to the Arctic to search for a lost explorer only to discover a world forgotten by time. Adm. €10

Lecture Series

Athy Library

4.30pm Open Forum – Chaired by Bob Headland

Cultural Evening - Music

George Bernard Shaw Theatre, Carlow

- 8.00pm** **Shackleton's Endurance**
2014 marks the centenary of the Endurance expedition, regarded as one of the greatest survival stories ever told. To mark this event, Athy Heritage Centre Museum has commissioned "Shackleton's Endurance" to, for the first time, tell the story through words and music. The Shackleton Autumn School is delighted to present the premiere performance of this work. Brian Hughes' composition and John MacKenna's narrative capture key stages of the expedition, from the optimism and hope at the departure in August 1914, through to the joy as Yelcho hoves to off Elephant Island. The performers will be joined by Kildare County Orchestra and Monasterevin Gospel Choir, while Craig Blackwell's backdrop will complete the full sensory experience.

The event also sees the launch of the CD
"Shackleton's Endurance"

Adm. €15

MONDAY 27th October

Field Trip

Assemble at the Heritage Centre - Museum

- 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, nearby Castledermot and the famous Moone High Cross.

Fare €10

INFORMATION ON CONTRIBUTORS

Dr Huw Lewis-Jones

Huw is a historian of exploration with a PhD from the University of Cambridge. He travels in the Arctic and Antarctica each year working as a polar guide. Huw was Curator at the Scott Polar Research Institute and the National Maritime Museum. His books include *Ocean Portraits*, *In Search of the South Pole*, *The Lifeboat*, *Mountain Heroes*, and *The Conquest of Everest*, which won the History Award at the Banff Festival. Huw has appeared on television and radio as a historian and cultural commentator, most recently in the BBC documentaries *Wilderness Explored*, *Of Ice and Men*, and *Frank Wild: Antarctica's Forgotten Hero*. His new book, created with the veteran explorer George Lowe, is *The Crossing of Antarctica*.

Dr 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. He is the author of *Ordeal by Ice: Ships of the Antarctic*.

Michael Smith

Michael Smith is an author and journalist who specialises in the history of Polar exploration. Michael began writing books in the late 1990s after more than 30 years as an award-winning journalist covering business and political issues for papers such as the *Observer*. His first book, *An Unsung Hero: Tom Crean Antarctic Survivor*, has never been out of print. His other books include *I Am Just Going Outside: Captain Oates*; *Sir James Wordie: Polar Crusader*; *Captain Francis Crozier: Last Man Standing?* and *Tom Crean: An Illustrated Life*. He has also written two books for children: *Shackleton: The Boss* and *Tom Crean: Iceman* which are on the curriculum for primary schools in Ireland.

Professor P J Capelotti

P.J is associate professor of anthropology at Penn State University, Abington College where he teaches Archaeology and American Studies. He is a prominent researcher in the pioneering areas of polar and aerospace archaeology and the author of more than a dozen books. His research has taken him to Svalbard, Franz Josef Land and the North Pole. He has recently retired from the U.S Coast Guard after 24 years service and is currently at work on a history of the American exploration of Franz Josef Land. His latest book is *Shipwreck at Cape Flora: The expeditions of Benjamin Leigh Smith, England's forgotten Arctic explorer*

Dr Leah Devlin

Dr. Leah Devlin is a marine biologist and historian of science who has worked at marine labs in the U.S. and Bermuda, and archives in England and Scotland. Her recent scholarly work focuses on the interactions of Charles Darwin with various nineteenth century explorers. Her work has appeared in the *History of Biology*, *Journal of Experimental Biology*, and *Polar Record*, among other journals. Her first novel, *Aegir's Curse*, a thriller centered on the scientific village of Woods Hole, Massachusetts is appearing later this year (Fireship Press). Devlin has long and intimate experience with the world of marine science and marine laboratories, having conducted research at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole across many summers.

Dinah Molloy

Dinah Molloy began her scientific career on the technical research staff of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and was later the first Music Officer in the Arts Council. She has had a specialist software company in the UK which has been providing custom designed software for orchestras and publishers for over thirty years. Dinah has an M.Sc. in Polar Studies from the Scott Polar Research

Institute and is an associate researcher in SPRI. She has recently returned to live in Ireland and is currently transcribing the late 18th century whaling logs of William Scoresby Senior, William Scoresby Jr.'s father.

Jim Mayer

Jim is an expedition leader and guide on cruise ships in the polar regions. His first polar adventure was to Spitsbergen to catch and ring Barnacle Geese and he worked for the British Antarctic Survey at the Rothera research station. He has lectured and written extensively on polar topics and has just published *Shackleton: A Life in Poetry*

Dr Rip Bulkeley

Rip is an independent historian of the earth sciences. He took degrees in Peace Studies and Strategic Studies in the 1980s and has written studies of the arms race and the space race. He has written several pieces on the International Geophysical Year of 1957—58 (IGY) and contributed both to a recent *History of the International Polar Years* and to the final report on the recent Polar Year (2007—2009). His most recent publication is *Bellingshausen and the Russian Antarctic Expedition 1819—21*.

Tim Jarvis

Tim is an author, explorer and scientist having made four expeditions to the polar regions. His recreation of Sir Douglas Mawson's 1913 trek across Antarctica was made into an award winning documentary: *Mawson: Life and Death in Antarctica*. Tim led the Shackleton Epic Expedition which successfully recreated Shackleton's 1916 voyage in the *James Caird* from Elephant Island to South Georgia.

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*.

Brian Hughes

A native of Athy, Brian is regarded as one of the foremost performers on the uilleann pipes and tin whistle. He is admired for his mastery of the flute and pipes, with fluent use of the various styles and techniques associated with these instruments. His artistic and creative expression through sound and music have seamlessly extended to composition. He has released two solo CD's.

John MacKenna

John is the author of fifteen books – novels, short-story collections, memoir, poetry and a biography of Ernest Shackleton: *Shackleton - an Irishman in Antarctica*.

He is also a playwright - for stage and radio. He was awarded a Silver Medal at the Worldplay Festival in New York. He is a winner of the Irish Times Fiction Award, the Hennessy Award and the C Day Lewis Award, with a novel short-listed for Irish Book of the Year. His RTE Radio documentary series on Leonard Cohen won a Jacobs Radio Award.

Craig Blackwell

Craig is an emerging sculptor and multimedia artist. He has completed a variety of commissions in various settings, each of which combines form and shape with arresting visual impact. Prior to entering art college as a mature student, his work was closely connected with the sea in occupations including fisherman and shipwright. This unique combination gives him an appreciation of the maritime aspects of Shackleton's voyage, and of the overwhelming forces which finally wrecked *Endurance*.

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 8

will be on sale with back issues of Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7

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: €150

Lectures: €10, student/unwaged/OAP: €8

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 Athy International Concentrates, Kildare County Library Service, Kildare County Council and Department of the Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht



Athy International
Concentrates



**An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**
**Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**



Kildare County
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