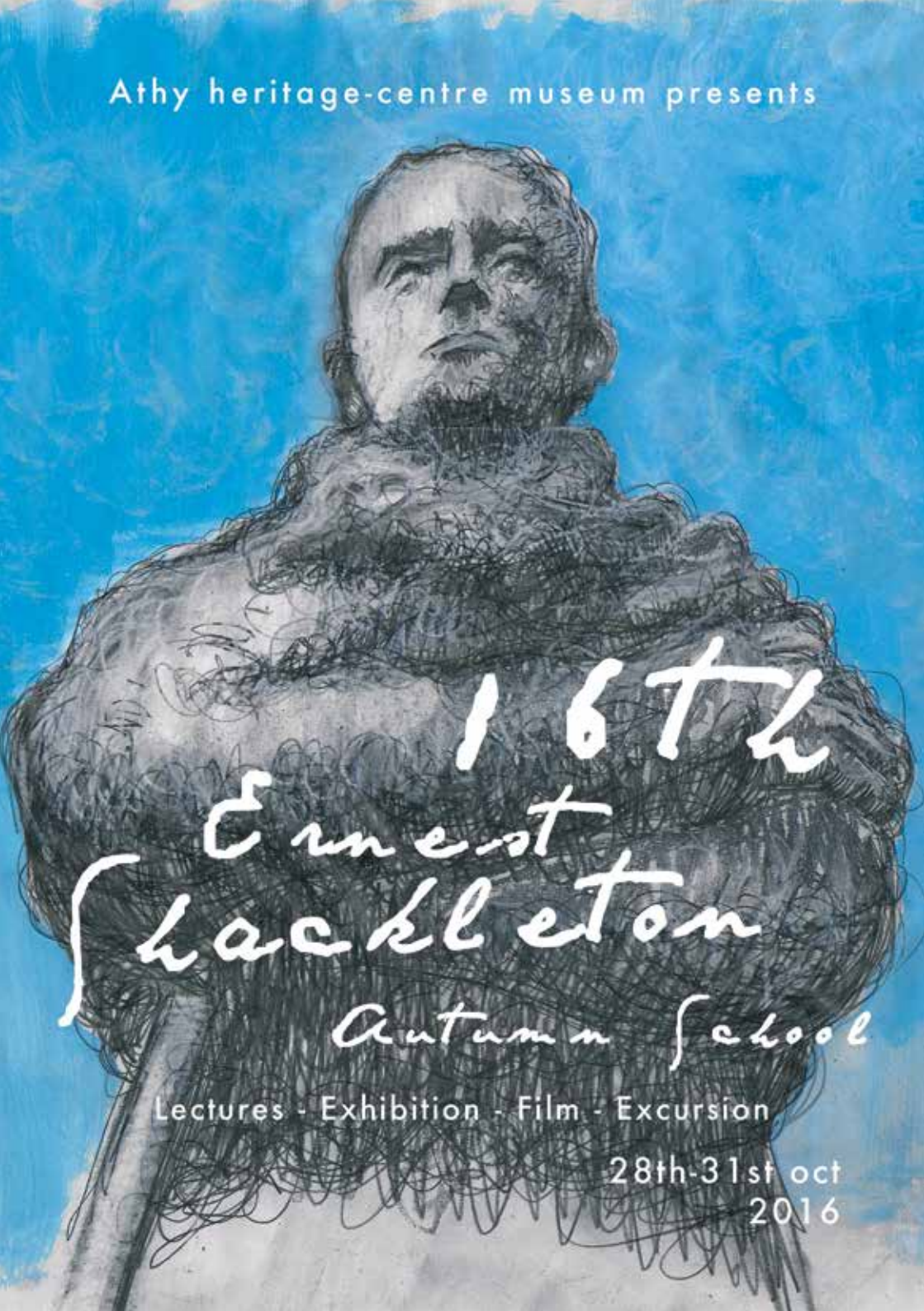


Athy heritage-centre museum presents



1874
Ernest
Shackleton
Autumn School

Lectures - Exhibition - Film - Excursion

28th-31st oct
2016



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 23rd October

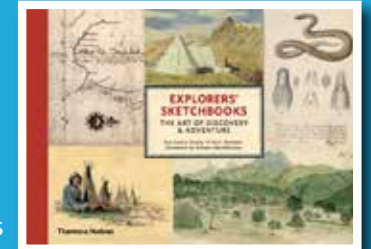
7.30pm **Official Opening**

Book Launch

8.00pm

In association with the publishers the school is delighted to host the launch of *Explorers' Sketchbooks: The Art of Discovery and Adventure*, published by Thames & Hudson in London and also released in several foreign languages. Rare journals, sketchbooks, art and more from the great exploratory journeys in history. Authors Huw Lewis-Jones and Kari Herbert are long standing supporters of the Shackleton Autumn School and we welcome them back this year.

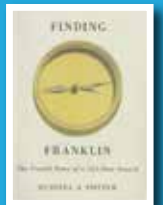
Athy Heritage Centre - Museum



9.00pm

O'Briens Public House, Emily Square, Athy

A first for the social heart of the Shackleton weekend when O'Briens will host the launch of *Finding Franklin: The Untold Story of a 165-Year Search* published by McGill-Queens University Press. In compelling prose Dr Russell Potter details his decades of work in tracing the more than fifty searches for traces of Franklin's ships and his men.



Daily Exhibitions

Saturday & Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

Bank Holiday Monday 10.00am - 2.00pm

“By Endurance We Conquer: Shackleton and his men”

The exhibition focuses on Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914-1917 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. It tells the story of the loss of the *Endurance* in the ice and how Shackleton and his men overcame the challenges they faced. The exhibition text was developed by the Polar Museum Cambridge and is complemented by artefacts from the Museum's own and private collections.



SATURDAY 29th October

Lecture Series Athy Library

- 10.00am** **"Explorers' Sketchbooks: The Art of Discovery and Adventure"**
Dr Huw Lewis-Jones Admission €10
- 10.50am** **TEA/COFFEE**
- 11.20** **"Triumph from Disaster: Shackleton and the *Endurance* Expedition"**
Meredith Hooper Admission €10
- 12.10** **"White and Green Warfare in 1916: the story of Tom Crean & Thomas Ashe"**
Frank Nugent Admission €10
- 1pm** **LUNCH**
- 2.15pm** **Book Launch**
In conjunction with 'Real Reads' John MacKenna will launch his re-telling of Shackleton's classic South.
- 2.30pm** **"Finding Franklin - The untold story of a 165 year search"**
Dr Russell Potter Admission €10
- 3.30pm** **"What makes a successful explorer?"**
Mick Conefrey Admission €10
- 4.30pm** **"Icebreakers"**
A series of short presentations on topics relevant to the Shackleton Autumn School, presented by those with a passion for their subject. Admission Free

Dinner Clanard Court Hotel, Athy

- 8.00pm** **Autumn School Dinner** Tickets €40

SUNDAY 30th October

Lecture Series Athy Library

- 10.00am** **"The Last Husky Dog Journey on the Antarctic Continent"**
John Killingbeck Admission €10
- 10.50am** **TEA/COFFEE**

- 11.20am** **"Life after Shackleton: The Conservation and Travels of the James Caird"**
Simon Stephens Admission €10

- 12.10pm** **"The 9,000 mile museum: Caring for our Antarctic Heritage"**
Camilla Nichol Admission €10

1pm **LUNCH**

- 2.30pm** **"Ernest Shackleton and Adrien de Gerlache - A Belgian Connection"**
Dr Jozef Verlinden Admission €10

Film Athy Library

- 3.30pm** **Towards the Coldest Place on Earth**
Once a year Russian 'Polarnics' set out in tracked vehicles, fit for scrap, to reach the station Vostok at the heart of the Antarctic. The convoy takes fuel, provisions and spare parts. The veteran vehicles, from the Brezhnev era, operate in temperatures below minus 50 degree Celsius which makes the 1,410 kilometres a nail-biting affair. It is the most extreme operation in the Antarctic. Join Leonid and his brigade on their journey into the unknown. The film is presented with live narration by Andreas Sanders. Admission €10
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Lecture Series Athy Library

- 4.30pm** **Open Forum – Chaired by Bob Headland** Admission Free

Cultural Evening Athy Arts Centre

- 9.00pm** **"Weird and Tragic Shores - prose and poetry inspired by the polar regions"**
Hosted by Ed O'Loughlin & Dr Russell Potter Admission Free

MONDAY 31st 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 and Quaker Meeting House. Fare €10

INFORMATION ON CONTRIBUTORS

Kari Herbert

Kari is an author and publisher whose work has featured widely in newspapers and magazines including *The Sunday Times*, the *Guardian*, *Geographical* and *Traveller*. Her late father was the polar explorer Sir Wally Herbert and her first book, *The Explorer's Daughter* described her childhood growing up in an isolated community in the north of Greenland. Her latest book, *Heart of the Hero*, drew attention to the remarkable achievements of the wives of celebrated explorers.

Dr Huw Lewis-Jones

Huw is a historian of exploration. He was curator at the Scott Polar Research Institute and the National Maritime Museum in London. He is an award winning author who travels in the Arctic and Antarctic each year working as a polar guide and he has a fascination with wilderness environments and remote islands. His books include *Ocean Portraits*, *The Crossing of Antarctica*, *The Conquest of Everest*, which won the History award at the Banff Mountain Festival, and most recently *Across the Arctic Ocean*.

Dr Russell Potter

Russell Potter is Professor of English and Media Studies at Rhode Island College. He's written about Hip-hop, *Spectacular Vernaculars* as well as a novel, *Pyg: The Memoirs of Toby, the Learned Pig*. He is among the foremost historians of Sir John Franklin's lost expedition. He has written extensively for more than twenty years about almost every aspect of the expedition, in his 2007 book *Arctic Spectacles*, on his 'Visions of the North' blog, and as the founding editor of the *Arctic Book Review*; he was also a featured presenter in the 2005 Channel 4 documentary, *Search for the Northwest Passage*. His latest book, *Finding Franklin: The Untold Story of a 165-Year Search*, has just been published by McGill-Queens University Press.

Meredith Hooper

Australian born and now living in England Meredith is a highly acclaimed author of fiction for children and many non-fiction titles. Her book *The Ferocious Summer* was very well received. The Irish Times described it as "one of the most important popular science books to be written in years". She has been a writer on both the Unites States and Australian Antarctic programmes and in 2000 was awarded the Antarctica Service Medal by the US National Science Foundation. Her most recent publication is *The Longest Winter: Scott's other Heroes*. Her play, *Beyond Endurance* was commissioned by BBC Radio 4 and broadcast as part of the Shackleton centenary celebrations. Meredith is a Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge and is a trustee of the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust.

Frank Nugent

Frank Nugent is an alpinist with many visits to the Alps and four expeditions to the Himalayas. He was the deputy leader of the first and successful Irish Everest Expedition (Stelfox 1993); joint leader of South Aris Antarctic Expedition 1997; sailed the Northwest Passage with the Northabout Expedition 2001; and climbed many first ascents during the Irish Lemon Mountains Expedition to Greenland in 2003. He has since climbed and trekked in the Andes, Iceland, Norway and in Colorado and Wyoming in the USA. A member of the Alpine Club, Frank is author of *Seek the Frozen Lands - Irish Polar Explorers 1740 –1922* and *In Search of Peaks, Passes & Glaciers – Irish Alpine Pioneers*. A former Chairman of Mountaineering Ireland, he is currently Chair of the Irish Uplands Forum, a voluntary body that promotes the sustainable management of the Irish Uplands.

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.

Mick Conefrey

Mick for the last twenty years has worked mainly in television, principally for the BBC and most of the major British broadcasters and US channels, including Discovery and the History Channel. He has made made a variety of films, ranging from experimental documentaries such as *Small Objects of Desire* to the landmark series *Icemen and Mountain Men*. More recently he worked with the Harvard philosopher Michael Sandel on *Justice* and has just made a biography of Lionel Bart. Several of his films have won international and British awards, at festivals such as Trento, Telluride, Banff and Kendal. He is currently working on History Connections, a new series for Discovery. As a writer, Mick has co-authored *Icemen and Mountain Men* and has written three further books: *The Adventurer's Handbook*, *How to Climb Mont Blanc in a Skirt* and *Everest 1953, The Epic Story of the First Ascent*.

John Killingbeck

John worked with the Falkland Islands Dependency Survey, the forerunner of BAS, from 1960-63. During this period, large areas of the Antarctic Peninsula were being surveyed using dog sled teams for transport into the field. Survey trips would last for two to three months. The surveyors worked in teams of two men - each man with a sled and nine dogs. John's work is acknowledged by Killingbeck Island (67°32'S 68°7'W), a small island east of Rothera Point, off the south-east coast of Adelaide Island. John has continued his connection with the Antarctic, lecturing on Polar cruise ships and to school and adult groups. He is also an active member of the Devon and Cornwall Polar Society.

Simon Stephens

Simon Stephens is Curator of the Ship Model and Boat Collections at the Royal Museums Greenwich (NMM) and was behind the preservation and restoration of the *James Caird* at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. More recently he oversaw the successful transfer of the *Caird* to its fresh home in the newly-built Laboratory at Dulwich College, and supervised the stepping of the mast and re-erection of the sails as they would have been in 1916. Among his publications is *Ship Models: Their Purpose and Development from 1650 to the Present*.

Camilla Nichol

Camilla Nichol is the Chief Executive of UKAHT having joined the Trust in 2014 from a career to date in museums and heritage. Camilla studied Geology at the University of Edinburgh followed by Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. She has had a varied museum career working with collections as diverse as geology, scientific and medical instrument, anatomy and pathology, Scottish football and the early oil industry. Previously she was Head of collections for Leeds Museums and Galleries, led the science team at York Museums Trust as Keeper of Geology, worked at the Hunterian Museum at Glasgow University - where she was fortunate to curate the Antarctic rock collections including specimens collected from Elephant Island by the marooned men from *Endurance* and the first rocks collected from the Antarctic mainland by Carsten Borchgrevink in 1895.

Dr Jozef Verlinden

Jozef Verlinden was born and educated in Belgium. He studied sciences at the universities of Louvain and Antwerp and holds a PhD in Chemistry. After his studies he worked in the pharmaceutical industry and became director of a pharmaceutical company. He has a long held interest in polar history. He wrote several books, in Dutch, about Belgian and Dutch polar exploration, including a biography of Belgian explorer Adrien de Gerlache. Jozef has visited all the regions discovered by Adrien de Gerlache. As a guide and lecturer on cruise ships, he has been to Antarctica seven times and two times to Northeast Greenland and Spitsbergen.

Andreas Sanders

Since birth Andreas has had a close relationship with water. He has often changed his professions, ranging from academic via self-study to semi-skilled work because of his thirst for knowledge and in the spirit of discovery. He has partaken in expeditions ranging from the polar to equatorial regions. In total, he has spent more than six years of his life in both Polar Regions. He has written about these journeys as a journalist and created exhibitions inspired by these experiences. As the only non-Russian Andreas Sanders was an official member of the Russian Antarctic Expedition on its journey to the Russian station Vostock the subject of his documentary 'Towards the Coldest Place on Earth'.

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*.

Ed O'Loughlin

Ed O'Loughlin grew up in Kildare town, where he moved from his native Toronto, aged six. After completing his studies at Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University, he reported from Dublin and Africa for The Irish Times, and was Middle East correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age of Melbourne*. His first novel, *Not Untrue and Not Unkind* was long listed for the Man Booker Prize 2009 and shortlisted for the Kerry Group Irish Fiction Award. His second novel, *Toploader* a darkly comic vision of the "war against terror", was published by Quercus in 2011. *All you can Eat* a novella satirising the Irish economic crash, appeared in 2013. His third novel, *Minds of Winter* was published by Riverrun in August 2016.



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



Scale model of the Endurance in Athy Heritage Centre - Museum



“Nimrod” Vol 10

will be on sale with back issues of Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9

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



Kildare County Council



Kildare Fáilte

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 Council, Kildare Fáilte, Minch Malt, Athy Lions Club, Kildare County Library Service, AIB Athy and Athy Credit Union.



Athy International Concentrates



Minch Malt Athy