

Athy heritage-centre museum presents

Lectures - Exhibitions - Film - Drama - Excursion  
26th-29th oct 2018

ERNEST 18th  
SHACKLETON  
autumn school



## 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.

The Museum 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 Museum 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 Museum, 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 26<sup>th</sup> October

### 'A Master Class with a Master Sculptor'

**11.00am** Sculptor Mark Richards, who created Athy's acclaimed Shackleton statue, will conduct a workshop with Leaving Certificate Art students from Athy Community College and Ardscoil Na Tríonóide.

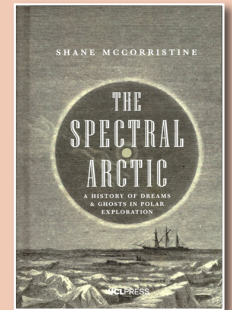
### Official Opening & Exhibition Launch

**7.30pm** Performed by Her Excellency, Ambassador Else Berit Eikeland, the Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland.

### Book Launch

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

**8.00pm** In association with UCL publishers, the Shackleton Autumn School is pleased to welcome back to Athy Shane McCorristine for the launch of his latest work *The Spectral Arctic: A History of Ghosts and Dreams in Polar Exploration*. Shane reveals the hidden stories of dreaming and haunted explorers, of frozen mummies, of rescue balloons, visits to Inuit shamans, and of the entranced female clairvoyants who travelled to the Arctic in search of Sir John Franklin's lost expedition.



### Daily Exhibition

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

**Saturday & Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm**

**Bank Holiday Monday 10.00am - 2.00pm**

#### "Exploring Shackleton"

The exhibition devised and created by the Fram Museum, Oslo focuses on the life and expeditions of Sir Ernest Shackleton.

#### "On Thin Ice"

Held in conjunction with the Norwegian Embassy, Dublin the exhibition documents the Norwegian Young Sea Ice Expedition 2015.



## SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> October

### Lecture Series Athy Heritage Centre – Museum

**10.00am “Lessons from the Arctic: How Amundsen won the Race to the South Pole**  
*Geir O. Kløver* Admission €10

### 10.50am TEA/COFFEE

**11.20am “Stories from the Frozen Deep:What the Sea Floor can tell us about the great Ice Sheets”**  
*Kelly Hogan* Admission €10

**12.10am “Solving Famous Shipwreck Mysteries”**  
*David Mearns* Admission €10

### 1.00pm LUNCH

**2.30pm “The Extraordinary Four Antarctic Winters of Argentine Jose Manuel Moneta during the 1920s”**  
*Bob Headland* Admission €10

### 3.20pm TEA/COFFEE

**3.50pm “Conor O’Brien: Patriot, Sailor and Adventurer”**  
*Jim McAdam* Admission €10

**4.40pm “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 28<sup>th</sup> October

### Lecture Series Athy Heritage Centre – Museum

**10.00am “Kathleen Shackleton, Ernest’s Arctic Sister”**  
*Sharon Greene* Admission €10

### 10.50am TEA/COFFEE

**11.20am “In Shackleton’s Wake”**  
*Arved Fuchs* Admission €10

**12.10pm “Isolation; Working and Wintering in Antarctica”**  
*Mike Brian* Admission €10

### 1.00pm LUNCH

**2.30pm ‘William Speirs Bruce: Forgotten Polar Hero’**  
*Isobel Williams & John Dudeney* Admission €10

### Film Athy Heritage Centre – Museum

**3.30pm Ice and the Sky**  
*This documentary follows the story of the French Scientist Claude Lorius who participated in 22 expeditions to the polar region since the 1960’s. Claude is a long time campaigner about global warming and in this elegiac film he reflects on his scientific endeavours.*

*The film was directed by Luc Jacquet.*  
Admission €10



### Cultural Evening Athy Arts Centre

**8.30pm ‘Shackleton’s Carpenter’**  
*This one man show, written by Gail Louw, tells the story of Harry McNish, the carpenter on Shackleton’s ill fated ship, Endurance.*

*The production has been kindly supported by the UKAHT.*

*Performed by Malcolm Rennie.*  
Admission €10



## MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Dr Shane McCorristine**

A native of Dublin, Shane is a cultural geographer and historian who lectures at Downing College, University of Cambridge. He published in 2010 *Spectres of the Self; Thinking about Ghosts and Ghost-Seeing in England, 1750-1920*. He has applied this interest in the supernatural to an ongoing study of its influence in the narrative of nineteenth century Arctic exploration and has recently been shortlisted for the AHRC/BBC Radio 3 Next Generation Thinkers Award.

### **Geir O. Kløver**

Geir has been the director of the Fram Museum in Oslo since 2005. He has 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. His latest publication *Lessons from the Arctic* was one of only two books which received a Honorary Mention at the 2018 William Mills Prize for Polar Books.

### **Dr Kelly Hogan**

Kelly is a research scientist at the British Antarctic Survey. Kelly's role as a marine geophysicist means that she spends her time mapping the seafloor. Kelly has been on 16 research cruises to western Antarctica, the sub-Antarctic islands, Svalbard and Greenland. Recently, she co-edited and published a new Atlas of Submarine Glacial Landforms showing the best 3D images of glacial features from around the globe. When not teaching undergraduates about the Arctic or on a ship in the Antarctic, Kelly spends her time pursuing outdoor activities with her family.

### **David Mearns**

David Mearns is a chartered marine scientist, historical researcher, author, and expedition leader of deep ocean projects. He is one of the world's most experienced and successful deep-sea shipwreck hunters. His formidable reputation has been built on a career finding notoriously difficult wrecks such as HMS Hood and Rio Grande, the Guinness World Record for the deepest shipwreck ever found. He is a long-standing fellow of the Explorer's Club and the Royal Geographical Society. He is currently serving as a judge for the Shell Ocean Discovery XPRIZE, a global competition challenging teams to advance deep-sea technologies for autonomous, fast and high-resolution ocean exploration.

### **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 *The Extraordinary Four Antarctic Winters of Argentine Jose Manuel Moneta during the 1920s*.

### **Jim McAdam**

Dr Jim McAdam is an agricultural and environmental scientist and Professor in the Queen's University of Belfast. He has been involved in agricultural research in the Falkland Islands since 1976 (for which he was awarded an OBE in 2014), is consultant to the Falkland Islands Trust and sits on the Committee of the Shackleton Scholarship Fund. He has published extensively and lectures widely on the Falklands and is currently researching the potential impacts of climate change on the Islands. He has edited the Falkland Islands Journal since 1991.

### **Sharon Greene**

Sharon Greene is an archaeologist and occasional historian who grew up knowing Shackleton's birthplace as the home of her aunt and uncle. Her interest in the Shackleton sisters began when it

emerged that her grandmother had met Eleanor Shackleton on a visit to Kilkea in 1959. Asked to present an 'Icebreaker' about the visit at the Shackleton Autumn School, Sharon decided she had to find out more about this woman – a decision that started a fascinating voyage of discovery about a family of remarkable women. Sharon has a doctorate in archaeology and is editor of *Archaeology Ireland* magazine.

### **Arved Fuchs**

Arved is an explorer and the first person to have reached the North and South Pole on foot in one year. He has also crossed the Antarctic continent with the alpinist Reinhold Messner in 92 days. With his sailboat the Dagmar Aaen, Arved circumnavigated the North Pole - on the Arctic route. He has sailed the Northwest Passage in the east-west and the west-east directions, as well as achieving notable firsts using kayaks and dog sleds. In 2000 he completed, together with three companions, Shackleton's James Caird voyage from Elephant Island to South Georgia before crossing South Georgia's alpine mountains to the whaling station at Stromness. Arved has written 18 books and many television documentaries and magazine articles have appeared about his expeditions.

### **Mike Brian**

Mike works as a manager in Antarctic operations and scientific support. He has been a keen mountaineer for most of his life, and was a member of a Scottish mountain rescue team for around 10 years. In his most recent post as a Station Leader with the British Antarctic Survey, he held overall responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of all personnel (approx. 100 people) on a large research station and hub airport during the 5-month austral summer. During the northern summer Mike pursues other interests, mainly in the high northern latitudes, including guiding in his native Scotland.

### **Isobel Williams**

Isobel qualified as a doctor at St George's Hospital, University of London and progressed to become a Consultant Physician, working in the National Health Service in the UK. Inspired by Dr. Edward Wilson, Scott's friend and confidant who trained at St George's some seventy years previously, she became interested in the man and, on retirement from her medical career, has become a prolific author and speaker on Polar matters, writing the biographies of Edward Wilson and Chief Petty Officer Edgar Evans. Her latest publication is *William Speirs Bruce: Forgotten Polar Hero*.

### **John Dudeney**

John has 52 years of professional experience and a lifelong passion in matters relating to the Antarctic. He joined the British Antarctic Survey in 1966 as an ionospheric physicist and wintered at Faraday (now Vernadsky) Station on the Antarctic Peninsula in 1967 and 1968 (base commander in 1968). He retired from BAS in 2006, as Deputy Director and was a member of the UK delegation to the Antarctic Treaty from 1999 to 2005. He was a recipient of the Polar Medal in 1976, a clasp to the polar medal in 1995 and a OBE in 2004. He recently co-authored *William Speirs Bruce: Forgotten Polar Hero*.

### **Malcolm Rennie**

Malcolm Rennie has appeared in over 20 West End shows. Recent stage appearances include Sir Anthony Absolute in the Rivals (Salisbury), Salieri in Amadeus (York), Willy Clark in The Sunshine Boys (W Yorks Playhouse), Spettigue in Charley's Aunt (Royal Exchange) and Colonel Pickering in My Fair Lady on international tour. He also toured internationally with the RSC world tour of Peter Brook's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

His many TV and film appearances include Midsummer Murders, Taggart, Pride and Prejudice, The Accountant, Monarch of the Glen and most recently Coronation Street, Sherlock, and Mr Selfridge.



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 12

will be on sale with back issues of Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10 &11

# The Ernest Shackleton Autumn School

is a project of Athy Heritage Centre - Museum.

*For information and booking contact:*

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Email: [athyheritage@eircom.net](mailto:athyheritage@eircom.net)

Website: [www.shackletonmuseum.com](http://www.shackletonmuseum.com)

ALL EVENTS INCLUSIVE FEE

Full Autumn School: €155

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

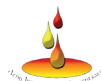
The Heritage Centre - Museum and its Shackleton School team would like to thank our funding bodies and sponsors whose support makes this event possible. These include Kildare County Council, Kildare Fáilte, Athy International Concentrates, Athy Lions Club, and UKAHT (United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust).



Kildare County Council



Kildare Fáilte



Athy International Concentrates



Athy Lion Club



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