

## THE EVENT TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE VISIT OF THE TERRA NOVA TO THE ISLES OF SCILLY



Some of the Lecturers and Descendants outside the Methodist Chapel

Back Row L-R Christopher Wilson, Alastair Wilson, Hermann Gran, Jenny Coverack, John Killingbeck, David Wilson, Tom Wilson, Mark Rapson.

Front Row L-R Mary Cleveland, Max Jones, Lucy Scott, Jenny Rapson, Jill Scott, Adam Scott.

I think I can say the event went very well, I have had some very positive feedback, and everyone who attended said they enjoyed it. A couple of lady visitors, who happened to walk in by chance to the first lecture, and subsequently came to all of them, told me it had really made their holiday and like everyone else commented on the wonderful atmosphere of the whole event.

Although I had hoped for a few more people, the event was well attended considering that most of it was held during the day, and there was a good balance of visitors and locals, plus a surprising number of descendants. Everyone felt they had learnt things from the lectures and had enjoyed the event and the atmosphere. For some it was their first visit to Scilly, and they were very impressed with what they managed to see and several mentioned coming back for a holiday with their families. Many people went to the Museum, and were very complimentary about the Antarctic Exhibition, which is continuing for the rest of the season, and the high standard of the Museum as a whole, most wished they had been able to spend more time there as there was so much to see.

I had tried to get a wide variety of topics rather than just concentrate on the expedition story which everyone knows so well. I knew I had chosen excellent speakers, but they really were all absolutely superb, some having put together new talks for the event. Dr David Wilson started the proceedings with a fabulous talk about the Terra Nova Expedition, and the day was crowned by Jenny Coverack's inspirational evening performance of the production of "A Father for my Son," which is the moving story about the life of Kathleen, the wife of Captain Scott.





The following day started with a fascinating talk by Hermann Gran the son of the Norwegian Tryggve Gran, he spoke of his Father who was selected for the expedition by Scott for his skiing and dog handling expertise. In common with many in of the audience I knew nothing of Tryggve's life after the expedition, but Hermann told us he was also an accomplished aviator, explorer and author. He was the first person ever to fly across the North Sea, and at the outbreak of the First World War he came to Britain to volunteer for the Royal Flying Corps, he was later awarded the Military Cross, for distinguished war service.

Then it was the turn of John Killingbeck who as always spoke with such passion and enthusiasm about his dogs, and the last ever dog team expedition in Antarctica. He gave a demonstration of sledge driving, and also went to the school and where he gave a similar talk and demonstration to the pupils. Thanks must also go to the Steamship Company for safely transporting the precious sledge to and from the mainland. Unfortunately John had to leave before the end of the event, as he and Jenny were taking part in the final Scott 100 celebrations in Cardiff.



In the afternoon Christopher J Wilson a great nephew of Edward Wilson, gave a wonderful talk on the Art of Edward Wilson, illustrated with the breathtaking paintings and sketches done during both Scott's Discovery and Terra Nova Expeditions, which are so amazing especially considering the conditions he was working under much of the time.

Next it was the turn of Dr Max Jones, Senior lecturer in Modern History at Manchester University, who gave an excellent talk entitled, "Dr Livingstone to Captain Scott: the Royal Geographical Society and the Age of the Explorer Hero 1856-1914." Again there was a fantastic amount of interesting information, which he managed to get through in such a short time.



In the evening there was an incredibly moving production of "These Rough Notes," with a cast which was almost entirely made up from members of Edward Wilson's family.

The introduction was by Jenny Rapson, a great niece of Edward Wilson  
Captain Scott was played by Dr David M Wilson, a great nephew of Edward Wilson.  
Kathleen Scott by Jenny Coverack  
Dr Edward A Wilson by Alastair Wilson, a great, great nephew of Edward Wilson  
Birdie Bowers by Dr Max Jones.  
Apsley Cherry-Garrard by Christopher J Wilson, a great nephew of Edward Wilson.

The last lecture on Wednesday afternoon was by Dr David Wilson on Scott 100, another fabulous talk in which he took us through the various celebrations and commemorations of the last twelve months. He went on to talk about the continuing legacy of the last hundred years, and asked that people didn't concentrate on the tragic deaths of Captain Scott and his party, but urged us instead to celebrate their legacy of scientific heritage and achievements, which are still so important and have implications for us even today a hundred years on.



This was followed by a moving performance by folk singer Jake Wilson (no relation) of his album "All's Well," which conjures up these extraordinary men in song – drawing on their own words to imagine the final thoughts of Edgar Evans, Lawrence Oates, Edward Wilson, Henry Bowers and Captain Scott. He spoke about how he had been inspired to write the songs, and about performing in Scott's Hut at Cape Evans in Antarctica.

The Event started with a Welcome Lunch at the Atlantic Hotel and finished with a Farewell Dinner at Tregarthen's Hotel, both of which were well attended and praised by all, for the quality of their food, and the service.

My thanks are due to Beryl Read, Chris Cox and Richard Farr, who did so much to help during the three days, and also to Reverend Gibbs for the use of the Methodist Chapel and Hall.

I am also most grateful to the Event sponsors:

The Isles of Scilly Council's Community Fund. The Steamship Company who gave discounted travel rates for the speakers. The Radio Scilly Lottery Grant Fund. The Isles of Scilly Rotary Club. Tregarthen's Hotel. Programmes were sponsored and printed by [www.come2scilly.com](http://www.come2scilly.com)

Mary Cleveland