

22nd - 25th October, 2010

THE 10TH ERNEST SHACKLETON

AUTUMN SCHOOL

ATHY
HERITAGE
CENTRE
MUSEUM



LECTURES EXHIBITIONS FILM DRAMA 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.

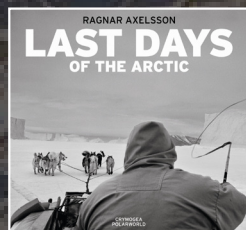


FRIDAY, 22nd October

Official Opening & Exhibition Launch

7.15pm

in **Athy Heritage Centre - Museum**



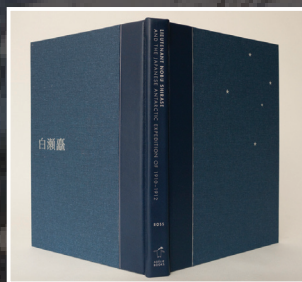
Book Launch

7.45pm

in **Athy Heritage Centre - Museum**

In association with Adélie Books the school will host the launch of Chet Ross's book *Lieutenant Nobu Shirase and the Japanese Antarctic Expedition of 1910-1912 - A Bibliography*.

The book will be launched by his Excellency, Mr. Toshinao Urabe, Japanese Ambassador to Ireland.



Shackleton Memorial Lecture by Fintan O'Toole

8.30pm

in **Athy Heritage Centre - Museum**

A native of Dublin, Fintan is an author, columnist and deputy editor of the Irish Times. His has been a distinctive voice in Irish journalism over the last 25 years. His books include a biography of Richard Brinsley Sheridan and many publications on modern Irish Society. His most recent publication *Ship of Fools* charted the rise and fall of the *Celtic Tiger*. His articles, particularly in the Irish Times deal with a variety of topics affecting society in Ireland and his writings are always thoughtful and incisive.



SATURDAY 23rd October

Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

10.30am *"The Last Days of the Arctic"*

Ragnar Axelsson

Admission €7

12 noon *"The SS Terra Nova (1884-1943) and other polar exploration ships of the 'heroic age'"*

Mike Tarver

Admission €7

Unveiling of Plaque

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

1.00pm *The Hon Alexandra Shackleton will unveil a plaque dedicated to her grandfather Ernest Shackleton. The plaque has been commissioned by the National Committee for Science & Engineering Commemorative Plaques. The national plaques project was initiated in 1996 to erect plaques to scientists, engineers and explorers and to promote a wider appreciation of Ireland's scientific and technical achievements.*

Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

2.30pm *"The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition"*

Dr T H Baughman

Admission €7

4.00pm *"Lieutenant Nobu Shirase and the Japanese Antarctic Expedition, 1910-1912"*

Chet Ross

Admission €7

Dinner

Carlton Abbey Hotel

8.00pm *Autumn School Dinner*

Tickets €40

SUNDAY 24th October

Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

10.30am *"Uncovering the story of Scott's Other Expedition"*

Meredith Hooper

Admission €7

12 noon *"Life inside drifting Antarctic pack ice"*

Professor David Thomas

Admission €7

Film

2.30pm *"The Red Tent"*

Released in 1969 Peter Finch plays the Italian explorer Umberto Nobile who led the failed 1928 Arctic airship expedition. The film shows him reflecting on his life and the deaths of those who tried to rescue him. The film also features Sean Connery, Claudia Cardinale and Hardy Kruger.

Admission €7

Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

4.30pm *Open forum chaired by Bob Headland*

Drama

9.00pm

Athy Community Arts Centre

"Where a Single Footprint Last a Thousand Years"

Composed by Michael Holohan: a performance of music, theatre, poetry and readings relating to Ernest Shackleton and exploration. Performed by Donal O'Kelly, Simon O'Dwyer and Michael Holohan with Poetry by Peter Sirr (in association with Poetry Ireland) and readings by Neale Webb.

Admission €12

MONDAY 25th October

Field Trip

10.00am

Assemble at the Heritage Centre – Museum

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.

Fare €10

Exhibition

Sat. & Sun.: 10.00am – 5.00pm

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

Bank Holiday Monday 25th Oct.: 10.00am – 2.00pm

The Last Days of the Arctic - An exhibition of photographs from the stunning new book, *The Last Days of the Arctic*, published in October 2010 by Polarworld and Crymgea.

The world turns its gaze toward the Arctic. Nowhere are the signs of climate change more visible; here global warming already affects the day-to-day lives of the local people. Still the circumpolar Arctic is one of the most disputed territories on Earth, with many nations laying claim to the mining and oil rights of the area as the sea ice retreats. For thousands of years the Inuit have built their communities based upon a sensitive understanding of the land and the frozen ocean, but rapid social and environmental change threatens their traditional way of life. The hunters of the North are a dying breed. This is the twilight of their society.

Ragnar Axelsson has been travelling to the Arctic for almost thirty years, drawn by a deep respect for the hunting communities of northern Greenland and Canada. His images have won him recognition as one of the most accomplished documentary photographers of our time. This remarkable body of work is finally brought together to present a unique record of the daily life and culture of some of the most remote communities in the world.

The book has been directed by Dr Huw Lewis-Jones and Kari Herbert at independent publishing company Polarworld with their Icelandic publishing partners Crymgea. In conjunction with the release of *Last Days of the Arctic*, Saga Film is completing a documentary for the BBC based on RAX's evocative photographic journey among the people of the North. To discover more about this remarkable project, please visit www.polarworld.co.uk.

EXHIBITION RUNS UNTIL 26th NOV., 2010.



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

CONTRIBUTORS

Chet Ross

After service with the US Army in Vietnam Chet embarked on a career in design in commercial practice allied with a distinguished academic career culminating in his final post as Senior Lecturer in Applied Design at the University of Arizona in the College of Architecture. In 2000 he founded 'Chet Ross Rare Books' specialising in books on the exploration of the polar regions with a focus on first person narratives and scientific research. He has just published his first book *Lieutenant Shirase and the Japanese Antarctic Expedition 1910-1912 – A Bibliography*. His book is a significant contribution to the study of this neglected expedition

Mike Tarver

His interest in polar regions began as a child inspired by a memorial to polar exploration in Cardiff. Combined with his love of sailing he researched and published *The S.S. Terra Nova – From the Arctic to the Antarctic* a comprehensive history of Captain Scott's last ship. He is a vice president of the Captain Scott Society based in Cardiff, and a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Ragnar Axelsson

Ragnar 'RAX' Axelsson has worked as an international photojournalist for the past three decades. Highly acclaimed, he has been honoured as Icelandic Photographer of the Year on four occasions. His work in Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Siberia has appeared across a range of print media, such as *Stern*, *The New York Times*, *Le Figaro*, *Newsweek*, *Time Magazine* and *National Geographic*. RAX has exhibited at art expositions and museums throughout Europe and the US.

Hon Alexandra Shackleton

Alexandra Shackleton is the only granddaughter of Ernest Shackleton. She speaks, writes and broadcasts on the subject of Shackleton and has been instrumental in furthering Shackleton historical research. She advised on the Channel 4 First Sight film drama 'Shackleton', starring Kenneth Branagh. She is the patron of several polar expeditions and life president of the James Caird Society.

Dr T H Baughman

A Professor of History at the University of Central Oklahoma Tim has written and lectured extensively on Antarctic matters. His books include *Before the Heroes Came: Antarctica in the 1890's*, *Pilgrims on the Ice: Robert Falcon Scott's First Antarctic Expedition* and *Shackleton of the Antarctic* which gives a fine summation of the life of the Irish explorer. His work on Shackleton has also included the introduction to *Rejoice My Heart* an account of Emily Shackleton's correspondence with H.R. Mill. He is a popular lecturer on trips to the Antarctic and his current research is on Antarctica, 1922-1941.

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 United 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*.

Professor David Thomas

A Professor in Marine Biology at the School of Ocean Sciences at Bangor University, Wales, David has recently taken up a position as Research Professor in the Marine Centre of the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) in Helsinki. His main research activities have focused on the ecology and biogeochemical processes of sea ice and he has regularly worked in the polar regions since 1991. He writes regularly for *BBC Wildlife Magazine* and *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and is the author of a number of books including *Frozen Oceans – The Floating World of Pack Ice* and *Surviving Antarctica*.

Michael Holohan

One of Ireland's most renowned composers Michael has had a distinguished career winning numerous prizes for his work. His music has been performed in Ireland and internationally and he features regularly with broadcasters such as the BBC and RTE. He is a regular collaborator with other artists such as the poets Seamus Heaney, Paul Durcan and Richard Murphy. Many of his compositions such as ‘Cromwell’ (1994), ‘Building Bridges’ (1995), ‘Leaves of Glass’ (1995) and ‘The Lost Land’ (1996) have been premiered in Ireland by the RTÉ concert orchestra. ‘Running Beast’, his collaboration with the playwright Donal O’Kelly toured Ireland and Europe extensively during 2007 as part of the government’s 400th Commemoration of the Flight of the Earls. He was elected in 1999 to Aosdána, Ireland’s state-sponsored academy of creative artists, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the arts in Ireland.

Bob Headland

Bob is a senior research associate of the Scott Polar Research Institute, 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*.

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.



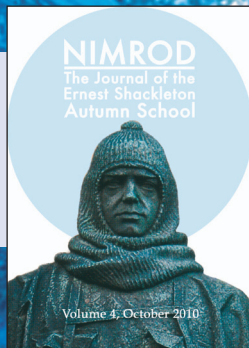
Mary Leadbeater's House in Ballitore part of the Field trip on Monday.



Antarctic Adventurers appearing during the Shackleton Autumn School



Scale model of the Endurance in Athy Heritage Centre - Museum



“Nimrod” Vol 4

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

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

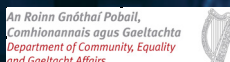
Websites: www.athyheritagecentre-museum.ie, www.shackletonmuseum.com

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, Athy Credit Union & Athy International Concentrates.



This project received grant aid from Cill Dara Ar Aghaidh which is financed by the Irish Government under the Rural Development Programme Ireland 2007-2013 and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in Rural Areas.

data print ATHY