

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum



*presents*



The 7th  
**ERNEST  
SHACKLETON**  
AUTUMN SCHOOL

**26th - 29th Oct., 2007**

*Lectures • Exhibitions • Drama • Film • Music • Excursion*

**The Nimrod - 100 year anniversary**

## 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 vibrant socio-historic legacy 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; the industrial and social effects of the canal in Athy life; information on the Gordon-Bennett race, which is celebrated annually in the town, and a wide range of seasonal exhibitions which reflect life past and present in this vibrant community.

Highlight of the year, at the Centre, is the Shackleton Autumn School, 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 26th October

## Official Opening & Shackleton Memorial Lecture by Kevin Myers.

7pm in Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

Kevin Myers, writer, broadcaster and novelist is an Irishman who grew up in England. For over 25 years he wrote the celebrated and provocative *'Irishman's Diary'* in the Irish Times. He recently published "*Watching the Door - a Memoir 1971-78*", an account of his years working in Belfast for RTE. He is now a columnist with the Irish Independent



## Official launch of 'Nimrod'

'Nimrod' the Journal of the Ernest Shackleton Autumn School. The first issue of the new annual publication of the Autumn School

## Daily Exhibitions

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

10.00 am  
to  
5.00 pm

Ernest Shackleton Exhibition - Includes a scale model of the Endurance, artefacts relating to Shackleton's expeditions and his Quaker ancestry and an audio-visual display.

"Nimrod Expedition" - An exhibition on the Nimrod expedition as seen through contemporary memoirs and press reports.

Antarctic Adventurers - The Antarctic Adventurers will recreate a three man sledging party from the early years of Antarctic Exploration.

Art Competition Winners Exhibition - Their work on 'Nimrod Expedition' will be on display.

Sandra Petit Frere - An exhibition of paintings on Ernest Shackleton and his Nimrod expedition.

# SATURDAY 27th October

## Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

- 10.30 am "Polar Photography"  
Martin Hartley  
Admission €5
- 12 noon "Nimrod and the Shackleton Centenary Expedition"  
Will Gow  
Admission €5
- 12.45 pm "Questions & Answers Session"  
Alexandra Shackleton  
Admission free
- 2.30 pm "Captain Scott – The Explorer as Hero"  
Max Jones  
Admission €5
- 4.00 pm "Biographical Dictionary of an Uninhabited Island"  
David Tatham  
Admission €5

## Dinner

Clanard Court Hotel, Athy

- 8.00 pm Autumn School Dinner  
Admission €35

# SUNDAY 28th October

## Lecture Series

Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

- 10.00 am "Rescued by Penguins" – The unsung role of  
Penguins in Antarctic Exploration  
Robert Burton  
Admission €5
- 11.00 am "Tin Cans and Auroras" – Conserving Antarctica's  
Heroic Age of Exploration  
Nicola Dunn  
Admission €5

12 noon **"The Poles and the Planet"**  
**Dr. Rhian Salmon**  
*Admission €5*

**Film** Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

2.30 pm **"Antarctic Journal"** – released in 2005, this South Korean production is a psychological thriller about an expedition trekking across the Antarctic to the Pole of Inaccessibility. When a journal from the British expedition of 80 years earlier is discovered, similarities with the British journey are noticed. The film is shown with English subtitles  
*Admission €5*

**Lecture Series** Athy Heritage Centre - Museum

4.30 pm **Open Forum**  
**Chaired by Bob Headland**  
*Admission free*

**Drama** Athy Library

9.00 pm **"Myth and Mask"** - A showcase of non-stop poetry and music featuring the work of Irish writers and poets such as Heaney, Montague, Longley, Carson and Kavanagh  
**The Armagh Rhymers**  
*Admission €10*

## **MONDAY 29th October**

**Field Trip** Assemble at The Heritage Centre - Museum

10.00 am **Bus tour to Shackleton country.** A visit to Ballitore and the home of Mary Shackleton-Leadbetter, writer and ancestor of Ernest Shackleton, the Quaker Meeting House and the Shaker Store.  
*Admission €5*

## Information on Contributors

### MARTIN HARTLEY

*Martin Hartley is an acclaimed photographer who specialises in documenting the most inaccessible parts of the planet. His work has been published worldwide in international press and journals. His recent commissions include The National Geographic Frankincense Trail (Yemen and Oman) and the Adventure Ecology Top of the World Trans-Arctic Expedition.*

### WILL GOW

*Will Gow works in the City of London. He has participated in many expeditions and adventures, his most recent being the Third Yukon Arctic Ultra, a self supported non-stop footrace with an eight day cut-off time to run 300 miles at temperatures approaching -50 degrees centigrade. He is the expedition leader of the Shackleton Centenary Expedition 2008 which plans to re-create Shackleton's expedition to the farthest south.*

### 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. MAX JONES

*Dr. Max Jones was formerly a fellow and director of studies in history at Christ College in Cambridge and is currently a lecturer in modern British history at the University of Manchester. He is the acclaimed author of a number of books including The Last Great Quest (Captain Scott's Antarctic Sacrifice) and recently edited Captain Robert Scott's Journals.*

### DAVID TATHAM

*David Tatham spent part of his childhood in County Meath and his working life in the British diplomatic service, including a spell in Dublin. In the late 1980's he was responsible for the Falkland Islands and South Georgia in the Foreign Office and he spent three years in Stanley from 1992-5. He has a continuing interest in the South Atlantic and helped to found the Shackleton Scholarship Fund in 1995 and is currently chairman of the Fund. He is the founder of the South Georgia Association and has just completed editing the 'Dictionary of Falklands Biography' which will be published this year.*

### ROBERT BURTON

*Robert Burton is a natural history writer who has been involved with South Georgia for many years. He visited the island for the first time in 1964 and returned in 1971 to study albatrosses and fur seals. From 1995 to 1998, he was director of the museum at Grytviken and started to collect information on the island's history. This included*

*researching the period Shackleton spent in South Georgia. Bob now visits South Georgia annually as a lecturer on cruise ships.*

#### **NICOLA DUNN**

*Nicola Dunn originally trained as a silversmith and jeweller before studying metals conservation and completed an internship with the Northern Ireland Museums Council in Belfast. Since then she has worked as conservator at the Science Museum in London and is now an Applied Arts Conservator at the Museum in London. Last year she spent nine months overwintering in Antarctica working for the Antarctic Heritage Trust conserving objects from Shackleton's exploration hut at Cape Royds.*

#### **DR. RHIAN SALMON**

*After completing a PHD in atmospheric chemistry Rhian spent three summers and one winter working in Antarctica with the British Antarctic survey. Overwhelmed by the beauty of the Antarctic she is aware of the importance of polar research but remains disappointed by the gulf between scientific knowledge and public awareness of issues of global concern. She now works as Education and Outreach Coordinator for the International Polar Year 2007-8.*

#### **BOB HEADLAND**

*Bob is currently Senior Research Associate at the Scott Polar Research Institute of the University of Cambridge. He specialises in the history and geography of both polar regions. His work with Antarctic Heritage Trust involves the preservation of the historical huts and other sites associated with exploration and discovery of the Antarctic. He is the author of the pioneering book 'Chronological Lists of Antarctic Expeditions that Relate to Historical Events'.*

#### **THE ARMAGH RHYMERS**

*The Armagh Rhymers are one of Ireland's most celebrated folk theatre ensembles. The masked tradition of 'Mumming' in Ulster dates back 2,500 years. This tradition finds voice in the work of the Armagh Rhymers. They have delighted audiences all over the world with their unique blend of music, song, drama and dance. They recently represented Northern Ireland at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington D.C. The group comprises Dara Vallely, Peter Shortall and Brendan Bailey.*

#### **THE ANTARCTIC ADVENTURERS**

*The Antarctic adventurers are a group of British re-enactors who specialise in re-creating the world of Shackleton, Scott and Amundsen. They perform regularly for museums and English heritage. They will recreate a three man sledging party of the 1901-1913 period with clothing, sledges and equipment of the type employed by Scott and Shackleton.*

#### **SANDRA PETIT FRERE**

*Sandra Petit Frere was born in Dublin, and has recently moved to Athy from the USA where she lived for the past eight years with her Husband and two children. She has studied portraiture, the oil technique of John Howard, and the pencil technique of Lee Hammond.*



Mary Leadbeaters 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

Children's drama and amateur workshops

Available from the Heritage Centre - Museum specially produced Bookmarks, Postcards and Limited Edition Posters based on the Centre's collection. Also a selection of books, DVD's, T-Shirts on sale.

# The Ernest Shackleton Autumn School

is a project of Athy Heritage Centre - Museum.

*For information and booking contact:*

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**ALL EVENTS INCLUSIVE FEE**

Full Autumn School which includes Dinner: €75

Admission to Lectures: €5. Student/Unwaged/OAP: €2

*The Heritage Centre - Museum and its Shackleton festival team would like to thank our funding bodies and sponsors whose support makes this event possible. These include Fáilte Ireland, Irish and European Properties Ltd., Diageo Ireland, Athy Town Council, Kildare County Council, Athy Chamber of Commerce, Allied Irish Banks, Bank of Ireland, Athy.*

*A special thanks to Athy Library for their support and help*

