Welcome to the first issue of the SGHT (South Georgia Heritage Trust) newsletter. We hope you enjoy finding out what’s happening in South Georgia and what conservation projects are underway, as well as the latest news from South Georgia Museum which SGHT has managed since July 2006.

Habitat Restoration - hope for South Georgia’s small birds

2007 was a landmark year for South Georgia’s small bird population, driven from their coastline habitat by the invasive brown rats introduced by sealing and whaling vessels. Many small birds nest on the ground or in shallow tunnels, where their eggs are easy prey for the rats. One of these is the South Georgia pipit, which is completely excluded from most of the coastline by the presence of rats.

In 2007 thanks to generous donations from the Island Foundation in the US, and the UK’s Rufford Maurice Laing foundation, as well as several donations from the public, SGHT raised close to £400,000 for Habitat Restoration. This means that the task of restoring the birds’ habitat can begin in 2008.

The entire project, whose end goal is to eliminate South Georgia’s entire rat population, is likely to take between 5 to 10 years and will cost in the region of 3 million pounds.

SGHT urgently needs your support to be able to complete this groundbreaking project. Although areas of South Georgia can be cleared in isolation because they are separated from the rest of the island by glaciers, glacial recession means that the rats may soon be able to reach new areas where pipits and prions are nesting.

Help SGHT protect the future of South Georgia’s small birds by making a donation today.

Thank you.

Shackleton at South Georgia

In October SGHT funded the 2nd edition print of the booklet “Shackleton at South Georgia” by Robert Burton and Stephen Venables. This popular booklet, with a foreword by Shackleton’s grand-daughter, the Honourable Alexandra Shackleton, gives a personal interpretation from both writers of Sir Ernest Shackleton’s connection with South Georgia. Robert Burton has delved into firsthand accounts of Shackleton’s visits to the island from diaries and newspaper reports, while the mountaineer Stephen Venables describes Shackleton’s crossing of the island in the light of his re-enactment of that journey. “Shackleton at South Georgia” can be purchased from SGHT online at www.southgeorgia.absolutewebhosting2.co.uk.
This summer has been the busiest so far in the museum, with around 65 cruise ship visits and 20 yachts visiting Grytviken. Over 8000 cruise passengers will visit South Georgia from October 2007 to March 2008.

The season started very quickly for us, as we had one day between arriving on the island and the first cruise ship, NordNorge, visiting.

Taxidermist and sculptor Steve Massam, who is ‘on sabbatical’ from the Falkland Islands Museum, has just arrived and is staying until the end of the season.

Steve has various projects planned, including stuffing a Snow Petrel and hopefully a new Wandering Albatross to replace the one currently in the Bonner Room. He will also be making sculptures and jewellery to sell in the museum shop.

Steve has created a truly beautiful and unique bronze sculpture of a Wandering Albatross in flight, which will be auctioned to raise funds for the museum.

Once again we have had work done in the museum by Morrison FI Ltd thanks to South Georgia government. Just before Christmas the Bonner Room was re-panelled giving Elsa a chance to work on new displays and to relocate some of the artefacts into the new Carr Maritime Gallery.

Currently on display in the Bonner room are the bell from Viola (now Dias) and a model of the vessel, which the museum has kindly been loaned from the Maritime Historical Studies Centre and Specialist Marine Services in Hull and Hull Maritime Museum. A big thank you to the good people of Hull for their generosity.

Morrison FI Ltd are also working in the new Carr Maritime Gallery. The gallery which will open for next season, will display a full-scale seaworthy replica of the James Caird lifeboat, as well as the Dias model and bell, and the bow of the wooden launch Alert used in surveys during the Discovery Investigations around South Georgia. There will also be informational displays on many of the wrecks that can be seen beached around South Georgia.
New museum acquisitions include a painting of Grytviken in 1927 which was very kindly donated to South Georgia museum by the South Georgia Association. It was delivered to South Georgia museum on behalf of the SGA by writer and historian Robert Headland, seen here with Elsa Davidson, the museum curator.

John and Sarah have been busy doing the annual maintenance of the outside artefacts and graveyard. Every year the fence and artefacts need a fresh coat of paint to keep them in good condition. The graveyard also requires plenty of attention to keep the dandelions at bay. As you can see, they have done sterling work!

Every year the applicants wanting to work at the museum get younger. This youngster has been named Romollo, and he has clearly decided that persistence is the key to success as he has taken up residence in the museum grounds.

Sorry Romollo, there’s no time to sleep on the job at South Georgia museum!

At the end of a hard day’s work at the museum, there’s nothing like putting your feet up with a nice glass of… orange juice? Surely not.

This photo was taken on Elsa’s 25th birthday in the Druken villa next to the museum.

You can find out all of the latest museum news, view the collection online and read Elsa and Miriam’s blog at www.sgmuseum.gs.
Repair to Husvik

Five Norwegian craftsmen, three of whom helped to restore the exterior of the Whaling Manager's Villa at Husvik in early March 2006, have volunteered to renovate the interior of this historic building. Thanks to Norwegian sponsors including Vestfold Fylkeskommune and with free transportation from the NordNorge cruise ship of the Hurtigruten group, and Explorer II cruise ship of Abercrombie and Kent, these intrepid craftsmen returned to Husvik in January 2008.

Over January and February, the team repaired the interior of the manager's villa, fitted new windows and a stove, and made the villa ready for the teams of researchers that use the villa as a base. So far the villa has been used by British Antarctic Survey, Sea Mammal Research Unit and British Schools Exploring Society. The additional weatherproofing and facilities that the team have installed will make this villa an invaluable scientific resource on South Georgia.

SGHT would like to thank all of the team and sponsors for their important contribution to South Georgia.

Progress Update

Although SGHT is a fairly new charity with only one full-time staff member, it has achieved a tremendous amount since being formed in 2005. Here are two projects already underway in 2008.

Stig-Tore Lunde
Stig-Tore, SGHT's project coordinator in Norway, organized and found funding for the team of Norwegian craftsmen who have now made two trips to South Georgia. Their work has created a base for researchers and expedition teams at Husvik manager’s villa.

James Caird III sets off for South Georgia

An eagerly awaited addition to the museum next season is a full-scale 23 foot, seaworthy replica of the James Caird lifeboat, which brought Shackleton and five other crew members to Cape Rosa from Elephant Island, 800 miles in some of the stormiest seas in the world.

The JC3 as it is known, has been built using traditional boat-building methods, by Bob Wallace. Bob built the lifeboats used in the IMAX film “Shackleton’s Antarctic Adventure” and played Shackleton himself for one scene in the film which was shot around South Georgia. Sadly this first replica and its companions, the Dudley Docker and Stancomb Wills, were lost during filming in a storm, so Bob decided to build another replica that one day might recreate the epic journey.

After a successful fundraising campaign in the US, the JC3 was purchased by SGHT for South Georgia Museum. SGHT and the Falkland Islands Museum hope to hold a joint exhibition in Stanley in June/July with the replica as a centrepiece. Next season, one of the principal donors involved in its purchase, Quark Expeditions, will carry the JC3 on the deck of one of their cruise ships from Stanley, Falkland Islands to its new home in Grytviken.
Meet the SGHT Trustees

Chairman – Howard Pearce

Howard Pearce joined SGHT in September 2006 and became our new chairman at that time, but has supported SGHT from its beginnings in 2005. As the former Commissioner for South Georgia and Governor of the Falkland Islands, Howard has visited South Georgia many times. Howard has a long-term interest in and commitment to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

Vice Chair – David Munro

As Director of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, David Munro travelled all over the world, including visits to South Georgia and the Antarctic. David’s first introduction to South Georgia was on a voyage which was part of a series of events celebrating the Scotia Centenary, which he initiated and organised. Last year David’s contributions were recognised in an honorary professorship from the University of Dundee.

Bjørn L. Basberg

A Professor of Economic History in Bergen, Norway, Bjørn Basberg is internationally renowned for his historical knowledge of the whaling industry. Bjørn has for many years been involved with industrial archaeology at the former whaling stations, and written extensively on the subject. As an International Polar Year project, Bjørn and a team of historians and archaeologists are planning to survey the Prince Olav Whaling Station in 2009.

Jan Cheek

Jan Cheek has had a long and happy association with South Georgia. Jan grew up there with her brother and eldest sister as her father worked as policeman on the island for some sixteen years. Jan has recently retired as joint Director of the largest of the Falklands fishing companies, so brings knowledge of the fisheries and marine environment around South Georgia. Jan is very interested in the human history of South Georgia and she and Bjørn form the Trust's museum acquisition committee.

John Croxall

John Croxall is the former Head of Conservation Biology, British Antarctic Survey and chair of the RSPB board. During his time in South Georgia with BAS, John developed and used new ways of studying diet, movements and energetics of ocean-living animals during swimming, diving and flight. Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, John is currently Chair of BirdLife International’s Global Seabird Programme.
Michael Moore

Michael Moore is a senior researcher and whale biologist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He has spearheaded several studies on right whales including the use of new technology for whale rescue. He is often called upon to perform necropsies to determine causes of whale deaths and is interested in comparing the Southern Right Whales found around South Georgia with the Northern Right Whales found off the East Coast of the USA.

Robert Napier

Robert Napier joined the SGHT board of Trustees in September 2007. He is Chairman of the Board of the Met office. Robert was Chief Executive of WWF-UK, the UK arm of the World Wide Fund for Nature from 1999 to April 2007. Robert brings invaluable knowledge of the charity and business sectors to SGHT.

Frederik Paulsen

Frederik Paulsen is the Chairman of Ferring Pharmaceutical’s Board of Directors and the company's Executive Chairman. A co-founder of South Georgia Heritage Trust, Frederik is a philanthropist with a particular interest in furthering scientific knowledge of the polar regions and the preservation of South Georgia’s industrial heritage.

Mike Richardson

Head of the Polar Regions Unit in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for 15 years before his retirement in 2006, Mike’s time in the British Antarctic Survey and 17 years in the FCO have made his knowledge of the Polar Regions and South Georgia encyclopaedic. Mike is the representative of South Georgia government on the SGHT board of Trustees.
## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS DURING 2007-08

### James Caird donors
- Mr Stan and Mrs Martie Livingston
- Quark Expeditions Inc
- Mr Paul and Mrs Adelaide Nicholson
- Mr Bob Wallace
- Mr Daniel P. Dyer
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- Donor wishes to remain anonymous

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- Henrik Kulms
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- GSGSSI

### South Georgia projects 2007-08
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- Mr George Mortimore
Ways to Support South Georgia Heritage Trust

**SGHT urgently needs your help to continue to conserve South Georgia’s heritage and wildlife. You can be part of this conservation effort and stay in touch with South Georgia by any of these methods.**

Donors will be signed up to the SGHT and SG News and Events newsletters and will be informed of all SGHT UK events.

**YOUR LEGACY DONATION TO SGHT COULD BE VITAL FOR THE FUTURE PROTECTION OF SOUTH GEORGIA WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ALISON.NEIL@SGHT.ORG**

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I enclose a cheque to “South Georgia Heritage Trust” for £ / $ / NKr __________

The donation is from:

Name: ____________________________

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If you wish your donation to be used for a specific purpose, please state here:

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Tick if you would like to receive the latest South Georgia news. □

Gift Aid - means that you can give more at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim an additional 28p for every pound you donate.

I wish this and further donations I make to South Georgia Heritage Trust (charity number SC 093019) to be treated as a Gift Aid donation. I understand that I must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax the charity reclaims on my donation in the year (28%).

Please tick this box □ Date: ___________

Please return this form to: South Georgia Heritage Trust, 23 Springfield, Perth Road, Dundee DD1 4JE

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Purchase from the great selection of South Georgia books and clothes at SGHT Online, see www.sght.org for links to our shop. All profits go to SGHT.

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We hope you enjoyed this first edition of the South Georgia newsletter.

Please let us know if you would like your friends or family to receive the newsletter too.

Thank you to all of our friends for their continuing support.

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The South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT) is a charity registered in Scotland, Scottish Charity Number SC304791