South Georgia Museum

Annual Report

2015-16

This report covers the period September 2015 to August 2016
Introduction

Tourism on the island is still growing, but now only slowly, and early results of a new visitor evaluation process show that cruise ship passengers visiting the South Georgia Museum rate the experience highly.

The continuing celebration of the centenary of Shackleton’s *Endurance* Expedition was marked with a temporary exhibition on the ‘rescue’ phase. Some of our fantastic Shackleton artefacts have also gone on loan to the Falkland Islands Museum.

The highlight of the season was the visit of HRH The Princess Royal in January.

Our biggest undertaking by far was the demanding but rewarding project to curate the move of original whaling station stores between buildings in the Grytviken whaling station.

New items regularly arrive for the museum collection, and the environmental monitoring programme and measures to preserve objects have been expanded to better ensure the long-term preservation of the artefacts in our care.

The Artist in Residence this season was photographer Jamie Grant.

Staff

With the increased demand for our services, the museum team has been expanded to five people.

For the 2015-16 season the core team was SGHT Director (South Georgia), Sarah Lurcock, Curatorial Intern Matthew Moran and the Museum Assistants Danielle Mates and Sharon Nicholas.

Both the Museum Assistants had previously worked on Antarctic cruise ships and so brought along useful knowledge and experience. We are pleased that we will continue to profit from this as Danielle will return next season.

The new position was for a Volunteer Fundraiser to assist for half the season, so in November we were joined by Lucy Hirschle.

Shop Buyer Liz Adams works from her home in the UK.

Left to Right: Sarah Lurcock, Danielle Mates, Lucy Hirschle, Matthew Moran and Sharon Nicholas.
Ship Visits and Tourism

Cruise ship visits and passenger numbers continue to climb steadily. The 2015-16 season produced a new record high of 8,787 cruise ship passengers in one season. And, despite four ship cancellations, there were still three more cruise ship visits than in the previous season; a total of 68 visits.

With its abundance of wildlife, South Georgia is a considerable draw for tourists heading to the Antarctic regions, so many of the twenty-three different cruise ships are becoming regular visitors. Most of the ships made three or four visits during the season, with one visiting six times.

There were two new vessels this season; and once again the largest vessel was the Seabourn Quest which brought 504 passengers on its visit in January.

Nearly half the cruise ship passengers were from English-speaking countries, and overall passengers came from 63 different nations. The increase in tourists from eastern countries also continues, with around 1,000 visitors from the region; the majority from China.

There were also 22 yacht visits, most of which were under charter to small expeditions or specialist tourist groups, and 10 visits from MOD ships and research vessels.

Including crew and staff, GSGSSI reports record 15,660 individuals visiting South Georgia during the year.

Early information for next season shows we can expect the upward trend in passenger numbers and ship visits to continue to rise slowly.

Other increasingly evident ‘visitors’ to Grytviken are the fur seals. With their favoured breeding grounds to the north and south ends of the island full to capacity, the seals are now filling up the central area of the island. The increase in breeding fur seals around Grytviken has been at an exponential rate and they are becoming a challenge for moving through some places!

Museum Displays

A temporary exhibition was developed to mark the centenary of the later ‘rescue’ phase of Shackleton’s Endurance Expedition (the British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition). The earlier temporary display, marking the month the Endurance and her crew spent at South Georgia on their way into the Weddell Sea, is still in place. With the centenary still underway, both exhibitions will continue through next season.
The new temporary exhibition on the ‘rescue’ phase of Shackleton’s *Endurance* Expedition is in the Carr Maritime Gallery and encompasses the *James Caird III*.

The new display marks the second ‘rescue’ phase in which South Georgia played an important part. It was the scene of the landing of the lifeboat *James Caird* in King Haakon Bay, and the first crossing of the island by the three desperate men from there to Stromness to find help for the rest of the shipwrecked crew. The new exhibition is in the Carr Maritime Gallery so it can include *James Caird III*, the very accurate replica of the *James Caird* that is central to the gallery. The exhibition also makes good use of the recently acquired ‘Shackleton Epic Expedition’ collection; a very well researched collection of clothing and equipment used on this modern expedition, led by Tim Jarvis, that repeated both the boat crossing and island crossing.

Mounted in the entrance to the museum to highlight the two special museum exhibitions and the GSGSSI/RGS exhibition in the Slop Chest (see below) was a quilt featuring the famous photographs by *Endurance* Expedition photographer Frank Hurley. The quilt was handmade by Cathy Corbishley Michel using the cyanotype (blueprint) technique, and is one of a pair donated to the museum.

The two-panel temporary exhibition ‘African Labourers in South Georgia’ that was on display in the Bonner Room has now moved to the Falkland Islands Museum. This eye-opening exhibition by Dag Ingemar Børresen of the Sandefjord Whaling Museum highlights the much overlooked history of African workers in the early days of South Georgia’s whaling industry.

Thirteen hand-carved room-name signs have replaced the rudimentary painted signs that have been in place since the opening of the museum nearly 25 years ago. The new signs match three carved by Tim Carr some years ago and have substantially improved the appearance of the main museum building; they were carved by Tom Elsby of the GSGSSI building team.
Guided Tours

Nearly all visiting cruise ships request the whaling station tour. The tour was performed for more than 60 visits, and is often given a couple of times during a visit. Tours are conducted by both the SG Director and the Curatorial Intern.

The Shackleton Centenary Grytviken tour proved popular once again. It is offered in addition to the whaling station tour and about a third of the visiting ships requested it. Curatorial Intern Matthew Moran was especially good at leading the tours and people went out of their way to compliment his entertaining and informative style. “Our passengers were ... very happy about the guided tours, Matthew was a great guide and able to answer all their questions.” wrote one Expedition Leader after their visit. Tours are also available to all our other visitors.

Acquisitions, Gifts and Loans

The museum continues to add many interesting objects and documents to its collections. Highlights this season included the flying helmet of Peter Garden, Chief Helicopter Pilot during all three phases of the Habitat Restoration Programme. This now somewhat battered helmet even has the original ‘Team Rat’ logo on the back. It was Peter’s own design and became the unofficial logo of the project. As an object, the flying helmet encapsulates a major part of the story of this world-leading project. Acquiring it for the collection is a great example of modern collecting, where we make a conscious effort to identify and acquire objects linked to contemporary events in order to better tell their story in the future.

We also acquired quite a few paper items. One collection of papers was a large bundle of documents relating to the Husvik cinema, with additional papers from Leith and Grytviken cinemas. We understand these were collected from the Husvik cinema and, as a whole, the collection provides a fascinating insight into how the whaling stations sourced their films, and the associated problems. We now have complete lists of films shown in all three cinemas for several seasons in the 1950s and 60s. This ties nicely with a further acquisition: that of a souvenir programme from the opening night of ‘Alexander’s Palace’ – the third cinema built at Leith, which opened in 1958.
We also acquired another ship’s logbook to add to our collection, that of the whale catcher *R4*, which complements the logbook for catcher *Skua* which we received last season.

We were visited by the direct descendants of James Wordie, who was a member of the Shackleton’s *Endurance* Expedition, and were very pleased to accept a donation of a beautifully bound limited-edition volume of James’ diary, which he kept during the journey. Never before published, and limited to a run of several hundred, we are very privileged to have our own copy for the museum library. We were also pleased to receive a donation of four volumes from Carl Anton Larsen’s own library – appropriate timing as we have just worked with the Fram museum in Norway to produce digital images of Larsen’s record-book which is in our collection for use in a major exhibition on Larsen which the Fram museum will open shortly.

A new occurrence for the museum was to accept the donation of an item recovered from a sunken wreck. Divers exploring the wreck of the *Ernesto Tornquist* in Antarctic Bay recovered a dinner plate which they handed in to the museum.

We were also pleased to accept this season a very special whale mark. The whale mark was an early method of tagging and tracking whales, used during the scientific Discovery Expeditions during the 1920s. The small tube was fired into a fin whale on January 25th 1935 and recovered on November 23rd 1963 at Grytviken. At 28 years 8 months and 22 days it is the greatest time recorded between marking and recovery and was early concrete evidence of the longevity of fin whales.

The ‘Inspiring Adventure’ exhibition at the Keswick Museum and Art Gallery was extended following a close call during severe flooding in the area. Highlighting the life of local resident, explorer and artist Tom Price, the exhibition included two items on loan from the South Georgia Museum: a sleeping bag and primus stove. The items have now been safely returned to South Georgia and will go back on show in South Georgia Survey display in the Fullerton Room.

A loan of several key Shackleton-related artefacts was also arranged to the Falkland Islands Museum. They currently have a travelling version of the Scott Polar Research Institute’s ‘By Endurance We Conquer’ exhibition on display. The loaned items include Shackleton’s walking stick, a framed signature and a set of clothing from the Shackleton Epic expedition.

![Shackleton's signature and walking stick](image)

**Curatorial Internship**

Matthew Moran was the sixth Curatorial Intern employed by the South Georgia Museum under the very successful arrangement we have with the University of St Andrews. Each year a recent graduate of their Museum and Gallery Studies course undertakes the curatorial duties...
The evaluation forms show most people spend 30 to 45 minutes looking around the museum and wish they could stay longer.

Evaluation

In an effort to better understand how the museum and its services are perceived, a simple evaluation process was set up this season. Previously feedback from visitors has mainly been in the form of comments left in the visitors’ book and from those motivated to speak to us or write after their visit.

The new evaluation process is designed to be simple and quick to fill in, and easy to analyse for measuring the key areas of the museum’s performance in the eyes of our visitors. Evaluation forms are available to all visitors, and there is a raffle as an incentive. We recognise that only a certain proportion of visitors will participate, so also make efforts to hand out forms and request participation, for instance on a ship after a visit. The results from the two methods of data collection can be analysed separately.

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The evaluation forms show most people spend 30 to 45 minutes looking around the museum and wish they could stay longer.
The evaluation was only in place for the later part of the season. Though the first results are based on a small sample, they are reassuring. We asked visitors to score the exhibition/gallery information, attitude of the museum staff, guided tours, gift shop and their overall museum experience from 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good). No score less than 4 was returned for any of these categories.

The raffle was won by James Ryan of the USA.

The high level of satisfaction with the museum is reflected in the independent results from reviews on the TripAdvisor website which awards the South Georgia Museum a ‘Certificate of Excellence’. Almost all the reviews left on the website are ‘Excellent’, though it should be noted the reviews cover a much longer period than this report; only eleven are for the same period.

Usefully TripAdvisor also has a link to the museum website www.sgmuseum.gs
The TripAdvisor reviews can be read here: https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g1593028-d1598504-Reviews-South_Georgia_Museum-Grytviken.html

Projects and Special Events

The Royal Visit
HRH The Princess Royal is the Royal Patron of the South Georgia Heritage Trust. In January she made her second visit to the island, this time as a guest of GSGSSI. The Princess Royal was accompanied by her husband Admiral Sir Tim Laurence and several other notable guests included the new Chairman of SGHT Philippa Foster Back, UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) CEO Camilla Nichol, GSGSSI Commissioner Colin Roberts, Chair of the NZAHT Rt Hon Paul East, Viscount Ridley, and other representatives of the FCO, GSGSSI and BAS. The itinerary included one very busy day at Grytviken and King Edward Point on January 16th. The museum and museum staff had a sizeable role in the events of the day. We conducted several tours of the museum and whaling station for various members of the party and put on a lunch for 25 people.
After lunch The Princess Royal formally opened the refurbished Slop Chest. The Slop Chest ledger, a handwritten record book that was found in the fabric of the building during the renovations, was put on display in the Slop Chest for the day.

The Museum team was thanked by James Jansen, CEO of GSGSSI, for its part in the successful visit. He wrote, “The team did a very professional job at showcasing the work and facilities operated by SGHT at Grytviken and had clearly made a tremendous effort to ensure that the day ran smoothly and was so enjoyable. This was appreciated greatly by everyone involved.”

**EWMSM**

You will understand the odd title of this, the major project of the season, when we explain it stands for the ‘Engineers Workshop to Main Store Move’, quite a mouthful if you are saying it over and over again.

This project was to curate the move of original whaling station stores that were being moved out of the old Engineers Workshop to make more space to store modern building materials, as this building is now used as the main workshop and garage for the GSGSSI building team. The whaling stores were taking up most of the space on the first floor and were to be moved into the whalers’ Main Store lean-to.

With little of the original whaling station now intact it was important to record prior to the move where the whaling items were located, and how they had been stored; as well as where they were being moved to. The vast upper storey of the Engineers Workshop housed thousands of items, ranging from huge machinery to nuts, bolts and delicate welding rods. These were stacked on the floor, in racks and on shelves six-tiers high. As part of the process we needed to photo-document and describe each item. We also tried to further identify some of them using an expert panel of 12 people which included ex-whalers, a marine engineer and whaling
Ready to be moved; these are just a few of the thousands of items tagged and recorded as part of the EWMSM Project.

The stores were mainly associated with ship maintenance and steam engineering, and quite a few still had their original card or fabric tags.

Each item or group of items was given an identifying tag; a huge job that was accomplished over several weeks and required the participation of all the museum team. Hard hats and head torches were needed for poking into the furthest reaches to ensure nothing was missed. Each tagged item was then photographed in situ; the majority of the photography was done by Artist in Residence photographer Jamie Grant. The GSGSSI builders then moved the objects to the Main Store lean-to. Items from the various recorded sections were kept together and re-stored to maintain their association as a group. To complete the process we then photographed the objects in their new location and recorded the information and images in a database.

One of the items identified during the EWMSM Project was an early Lister engine. One of the expert panel, marine engineer and salvor Lyle Halkett, said this “...could be a bit of an exciting find ...and must be a very early example” He also wondered how it ended up in the Engineers Workshop and said “I doubt if there is a living person who could truthfully say they know exactly the purpose of that old engine. It may well have been from a work boat, it could have been an emergency generator set of a large ship brought ashore to have a new cylinder head made. I admit it looks like a boat engine but not the type used for general whale towing duties.”

Visit to Moltke Harbour Historic Site
The SG Director made a visit to the important historical site at Moltke Harbour of the first science station established on the island. The German South Georgia Expedition was part of the International Polar Year and arrived in 1882. They occupied the site for a year, erecting several buildings including an observatory to watch the Transit of Venus. An impressive amount was achieved by the expedition including a wide variety of data recording, experiments and exploration. This rarely visited site has potential for future archaeology. Photographs were taken to record the current status of many visible artefacts remaining at the site.
Events for the Locals
Most visitors to the museum arrive on cruise ships, but it is important to also engage with those living and working locally or those who are visiting the area for longer, for instance on yachts.

We ran tours for the locals and hosted a couple of events for everyone including the usual decoration of the church at Christmas. A smoko/brunch event was well attended and a treasure hunt around the museum encouraged people to re-engage with the museum, and indeed many treasure hunters did swap from searching for chocolate bars to reading the wall panels.

Our staff room is a haven for cruise ship staff, yachts folk and those visiting from Royal Navy and research vessels. Having visitors in the staff room is a great opportunity to enhance relations, share information and discuss work matters. To encourage use of the facility an expedition staff mail board has been established where messages can be left for friends and colleagues on other vessels; it has proved very popular.

Often well supplied with ‘goodies’ baked by the staff, the staff room was especially appreciated during a Major Incident Exercise when the crew of *HMS Clyde* were acting as “casualties” on a cool grey morning and were glad of a brew and a warm up after several hours outside.

One Expedition Leader wrote, “Your museum kitchen is a little haven for us and I don’t think you realise how much it is appreciated by us all! Just to have a little hideaway with a very good cup of tea is great - and the home baking isn’t bad either!! Thank you to all the team for the hospitality!”

Habitat Restoration – Pipit Recovery
Although the aerial baiting phases of the SGHT Habitat Restoration Project are complete, there is more than a year to go before the anticipated completion of the project. The fourth and last phase of the project is the vital monitoring in the summer of 2017/2018. Meanwhile the return of the pipit to the recently-baited southern end of the island was so quick it took us all by surprise. Just months after the area was baited...
to remove invasive rats, pipits were confirmed as breeding at Rookery Bay on the northern end of the Barff Peninsula. And further afield, the benefits to the island’s wildlife from earlier baiting phases was underlined by the cruise ship staff who repeatedly reported seeing more ducks and pipits than they had ever seen before in many of the regularly visited areas. Information on pipit sightings is collected in a ‘pipit log’ in the front hall of the museum.

**Gift shop**

Profit from the museum’s popular gift shop goes towards the work of the South Georgia Heritage Trust, and this season the shop had its second best year. The shop stocks a large range of goods, from books on the history of the island and exclusive or handmade items to the ever popular fluffy penguins and South Georgia T shirts and baseball caps. Many items are exclusive to the shop and this year we expect our beautiful soft beanie hats, specially designed and made for us, to do very well. Other very popular lines include the Burns crystal ware; glasses, decanters and other items etched with penguins, the map of the island, or Shackleton’s ship *Endurance*.

The South Georgia Island Craft (SGIC) range was expanded as Museum Assistant Sharon Nicholas experimented with new magnet designs. Sharon was hugely productive, turning out hundreds of the handmade items, but because our customers love the opportunity to buy items made on the island she could still hardly keep up with the demand.

A range of goods, including books, clothing, and exclusive gifts and artwork, can also be bought from the SGHT website. The online shop also stocks several items that differ from those stocked at the museum [www.sghtonline.gs](http://www.sghtonline.gs)

**Buildings and Maintenance**

The GSGSSI Building team does all the larger maintenance works around the museum, with the museum team taking on the smaller tasks.

The museum is looking super as the exterior was repainted by the GSGSSI builders.
The whale harpoon cannon that has been displayed in front of the museum on a temporary wooden rest has now been mounted properly. The GSGSSI builders created a concrete pad to support the metal cannon base, matching the way the others are mounted. All the cannons are of a different design and there is a sixth smaller one inside the museum as well. The outdoor artefacts need a lot of maintenance to preserve them from the severe climate. With an increasingly busy shipping programme it is always a race against time to get this outdoor maintenance done in the warmer and better weather. Each season a couple of the outdoor artefacts are given more thorough maintenance; this season they were the V tipper truck and the bone saw.

Improvements were made to the fire evacuation plan with new evacuation routes instated and all the emergency lights replaced.

The main museum workshop has now been set up in the Carr Maritime Gallery building to replace the one that used to be in the Slop Chest. A work bench and shelving were installed and steps built up to the entrance.

A new Large Artefact Store has been created in an upstairs room in the back of the Slop Chest. This much needed store is already filling up with items like old whaling station furniture, and large science apparatus that is too large to store in other artefact stores.

The removal of a blanked-off door and frame from the back wall of the Carr Maritime Gallery is a big improvement.

At the staff house, which is owned and operated by GSGSSI, we have benefited from a good deal of new furniture and fittings replacing the old, broken and worn ones. With a fresh lick of paint inside and out, it is looking nice and homely.
To set off the main entrance to the museum, an attractive light, left, was made from parts recovered from the old whaling stations. It was made and installed by GSGSSI electrician Andy Porter.

GSGSSI completed the conversion of the Slop Chest into the tourist Post Office with a GSGSSI exhibition space behind. The space is occupied by an off-shoot of the Royal Geographical Society “Enduring Eye” exhibition of Frank Hurley’s photographs. There is a seating area so visitors can sit to watch a short film about the whaling stations and the recently completed 3D survey of them. A kiosk in the Post Office further showcases the 3D laser survey results.

The Museum Online

Work has been started to update the museum website as it is important to make the museum and its collection available to the vast majority who are not able to visit the island. Meanwhile monthly updates from the museum team are posted during the season in the ‘Latest News’ section on www.sgmuseum.gs
New blogs are also posted on the SGHT Facebook page

Almost the entire museum collection is hosted on the eHive museum collections website. All new artefacts in the South Georgia Museum collection are added to eHive along with their photographs and information about the objects and their history. http://ehive.com/account/3408

The SGHT website is also a useful source of information www.sght.org

Whale sightings in South Georgia waters are collected at the museum and uploaded onto a website. The past two seasons have seen an increase in reports of very large aggregations, often of several species of whales and numbering in the hundreds. Hopefully this and the increasing number of winter sightings are evidence of whale populations improving. The reported whale sightings can be viewed on a chart reached from the SGHT website.

Fundraising

Fundraising for the final phase of the SGHT Habitat Restoration Project continues and at South Georgia requires the help of the entire museum team. We now have a Volunteer Fundraiser for half a season. Fundraiser Lucy Hirschle joined the team in late November to cover the busiest part of the season and took over giving most of the presentations on the cruise ships, organising auctions and doing all the fundraising administration - in high season this is a full-time job!
The new Volunteer Fundraiser position is an opportunity for someone to develop new professional skills and gain experience. So, as part of that process, we instituted a similar review procedure to that used to assist the development of the Curatorial Interns.

The Habitat Restoration talk was given on 55 cruise ship visits, often with two talks given at the same time if we have groups of passengers who speak different languages. Both Museum Assistants assisted with giving presentations on these and other occasions.

The fundraising on South Georgia is mainly through the ‘Sponsor a Hectare’ scheme and through encouraging the vessels to raise further funds for us by holding on-board auctions. The results are only as successful as they are because the staff on the ships, and companies running the cruise ships, are enthusiastic supporters of the project.

News that trained rodent tracker dogs would be used in Phase Four, the monitoring phase of the Habitat Restoration Project, was a boost both to interest and to fundraising. Images of these skilled canine partners never failed to raise a smattering of applause or a coo of pleasure.

Exclusive and often hand-made items are given out to the cruise ship staff running the auctions. A few people send us craft and artwork and other items which are a wonderful aid to our fundraising, and often those on board also find some fabulous and often inventive lots to auction. Ever popular lots generated on board the ships are the annotated ship’s chart of the voyage and the ship’s flag that was flown during the voyage, or experiences such as steering the ship, an exclusive Zodiac cruise or doing the morning wake-up call.

Other

Artist in Residence
This year’s Artist in Residence was photographer Jamie Grant.

Jamie is an award-winning photojournalist. He is widely travelled but is normally based in Scotland where the majority of his commissioned work has been with NGOs, including the Scottish Refugee Council, WWF, John Muir Trust, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and Mercy Corps.

Jamie spent six weeks with us and worked phenomenally hard on both his museum projects, including the photo-documenting for the EWMSM, and photography for his book ‘Summer in South Georgia’. Up before dawn and out still in the evening light, he grabbed every chance that came his way to get further afield, whether accompanying the KEP scientists on
their field trips, the builders when they were working on the Prion Island walkway, or climbing mountains with the rest of the museum team on their days off. In between and late into the night he was working on his resulting photographs....We all wondered when he slept.

Proceeds from the sales of his book ‘Summer in South Georgia’ will go towards the work of the SGHT. See below for book details.
To find out more about Jamie Grant visit www.jamiemurraygrant.co.uk

Previous Artist in Residence, sculptor and photographer Anthony Smith, is now a regular visitor as a staff member on one of the cruise ships. We sell his bronze limited edition wildlife sculptures which are the result of his tenure with us.

**Environmental and Pest Monitoring**
We continue to expand our environmental and pest monitoring programme. We are lucky that the cold temperatures in the museum, severe climate of the island and the relative lack of potentially harmful insects mean we have fewer day-to-day concerns about the health of our artefact collection, than say a museum in the UK, but that is no reason to let our guard down. If a problem is encountered, the sooner we know about it the better. We now monitor temperature and its fluctuation, humidity and light levels in both the exhibition areas and the artefact stores. Different materials need different care and different conditions to ensure their best preservation.

A number of moths, which may have been clothes moth, were seen in the staff house this season and posed a potential risk to the museum textile collection. The staff house has now been fumigated.

Despite having harmful-light-wave excluding glass, or UV film on the windows, we are taking further precautions by putting light covers over cases and vulnerable objects between visits and/or over winter.

The high humidity in the lower museum areas continues to be of concern and different ways of tackling it are constantly being considered and even trialled.

**Environmentally Friendly**
Quite rightly ever more stringent biosecurity measures are being put in place by GSGSSI to help prevent introduction of any potential invasive species. Our suppliers have to conform with the strict biosecurity measures. After initial packing by the producers to the required standards, our main shippers in Bristol also ensure the hundreds of boxes comply to standards set out in
the GSGSSI biosecurity handbook. Cargo is then shipped to the Falklands where it is collected and biosecured again before being loaded on the Pharos SG. That though is not the end of the checks. The cargo is offloaded directly into the special biosecurity building on the KEP jetty where it is opened and inspected before being taken around the bay to be lugged up the stairs and stacked into the stock rooms. Even then there are insect traps in the stock rooms that are regularly checked in case anything was missed!

We also recycle as much of our waste as we can, both from the museum and the staff house. This can be a time-consuming job. For instance a glass bottle will need to be rinsed out then placed in the glass bin from where it is moved to a larger bin in our main waste facility in the old whalers’ coffee grinding shed. About once a month we move the waste to KEP where the bottle is fed into a glass shredder. The glass shards are moved to a large collecting bag to await shipping to the Falklands. There they can be incorporated into road or building materials.

As many packing materials as possible are reused to wrap the goods we sell. We discourage customers from accepting single-use plastic bags and offer ‘bags for life’ as an attractive alternative.

New Publications
‘Reclaiming South Georgia’

Project Director Professor Tony Martin has written a book about the SGHT Habitat Restoration Project entitled ‘Reclaiming South Georgia: the defeat of furry invaders on a sub-Antarctic island’. The book was published by SGHT Publications in September 2016 and is already on its second print run. It is the story of the SGHT Habitat Restoration Project fieldwork that took place on South Georgia in three phases (in 2011, 2013 and 2015), baiting every inch of rodent-infested land on the island. Tony Martin gives a personal account of the challenges and triumphs the team faced in routing the furry invaders (rats and mice). This attractive hard-backed book is chock-a-block full of fabulous photographs taken by ‘Team Rat’ and costs from £25. Funds generated by the sale of this book will go towards the vital monitoring phase of the project.


You can purchase this book from the SGHT on-line shop.

‘Summer in South Georgia’

This stunning book is the result of photojournalist Jamie Grant’s residency as the South Georgia Museum’s Artist in Residence (see above). It is an intimate portrait of wildlife, conservation and true wilderness on this precious island. The hard-backed book was published by Watermill Books in August 2016. It has 85 colour photographs and is in a limited edition of 600 signed and numbered copies. Profits from the book support the work of the SGHT.

Both the books will be available from the museum gift shop.
Looking Ahead

Taxidermist and Artist Steve Massam will be Artist in Residence for six weeks at the beginning of the coming season. Amongst other things he will complete his beautiful and much-admired wandering albatross by replacing the temporary mount, will assist in the maintenance of the museum’s taxidermy collection and will develop the SG Island Craft range and train the staff to make these items.

The main exhibition projects for next season will include: a redisplay in the Bonner Room (entrance hall) for the 25th Anniversary of the Museum; completion of the deferred ‘whaling end products’ display in the Allardyce Room; and an exhibition in the Slop Chest to highlight its original use as the company store.

How to Support Our Work

Artefacts
The South Georgia Museum is always glad to hear of any artefacts that could be donated to the museum collection. So if you have any objects, images or information that you think may be of interest please do get in touch. Information on how to contact us is below.

We are still actively looking for items relating to the domestic life of the whalers and other residents of the island.

Are you getting rid of some of your old books? There are several older books and reports either about, or with sections on, South Georgia and about whaling that we are keen to add to our library.

Items to auction
If you enjoy art or crafting we would very grateful for any donations of South Georgia or penguin or whale related items we can use for our fundraising, in particular items that could be auctioned on the cruise ships.

Donate
Please support the South Georgia Museum or the work of the SGHT to protect the heritage and natural history of South Georgia by making a donation.

Online donations can be made through the Trust’s website at www.sght.org/make-donation

US citizens can make tax deductible gifts via Friends of South Georgia Island www.fosgi.org/donation

Donations can also be sent by post to the South Georgia Heritage Trust, at the Dundee address below. Cheques, payable to “South Georgia Heritage Trust”, can be sent in Sterling or US Dollars.
Contact Us

Do please keep us up to date if your contact details have changed recently.

SG Museum Postal Address: South Georgia Museum, Grytviken, South Georgia, S1QQ 1ZZ, via Falkland Islands, South Atlantic.
(Add ‘via UK’ if posting from outside the UK)
Email: museum@sght.org or sghtdirectorsg@sght.org

SGHT HQ Postal Address: South Georgia Heritage Trust, Verdant Works, West Henderson’s Wynd, Dundee, DD1 5BT, UK.
Email: info@sght.org

We are happy to expand the circulation of this report. If you know of anyone who would like to receive an electronic copy, give us their name and email address.

Acknowledgments

The South Georgia Museum could not operate without the help and support of many organisations and people. There are too many people who assist us to mention everyone by name, so may we start by saying a big "Thank You" to everyone who gave donations, advice and assistance. We greatly appreciate everything that is done for us and we could not operate in this remote part of the world without help from you all.

We would also like to thank:

GSGSSI who provide the logistics and infrastructure on the island; SGHT run the museum on behalf of GSGSSI who give us an annual grant to cover the museum’s running costs.

The GSGSSI building team has done lots of work this season to keep the museum and outbuildings at a high standard of maintenance. The team has also enthusiastically assisted us with some of the heavier jobs and we have benefitted from the team members’ many skills. In particular we wish to thank Tom Elsby for his patient and skilled hand-carving of all the super new room signs, Andy Porter for his ongoing work improving the museum display lighting and Tim Stenning whose heritage carpentry knowledge and skill has been an asset.

The GSGSSI Government Officers, BAS employees and others who live and work at King Edward Point help us in many ways, including lending a bit of muscle when we need it. In particular we owe thanks to Erny, Ray and Adam. We often repay our debts with a good cuppa and a slice of cake of course!

Thank you to the many people who have donated artefacts, books, photographs, historical information, papers etc.

Thank you to HMS Clyde and the military who have assisted with passages for our staff to reach the island from the Falklands, or have offered hospitality aboard their ships when they visit.
Thank you to Lindblad Expeditions and the National Geographic Explorer for offering passage to our staff both to and from the island this season. We would have been really stuck without your generous help.

Former SG Museum Director Bob Burton is a constant collaborator, fantastic source of historical information and advice. He also acts as a collection point for artefacts which he then arranges to be shipped to us with the further assistance of the people at BAS Cambridge.

Rod Strachan, the BAS Logistics Coordinator for KEP, is ever helpful.

Tom Adams donated his time and the materials to make a considerable number of craft items for the shop.

The GSGSSI Postal Officer and maintenance man Hugh Marsden is a valued member of the local team and always ready to help. He also spends a lot of time keeping the Grytviken cemetery looking neat and well maintained.

Thank you to Jamie Grant for use of several of his photographs in this report, for the museum website etc.

Thank you to all the members of our ‘expert panel’ for the EWMSM.

Former SG Museum Curator Elsa Davidson assists with the familiarisation of the new curators each year and is always willing to give us her expert advice. Also we would like to thank her employers, National Museums Scotland, who allow her to support us as part of her role with them as Curator of Technology.

We cannot thank enough all the staff members and cruise ship companies that assist our fundraising efforts. It is only with their help that we have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds over the years towards the SGHT Habitat Restoration Project. We literally could not do it without you!

Thank you also to the many translators who work with us on tours and presentations to make sure we can communicate with as many of our visitors as possible.

Thank you also to the cruise ship staff for your friendship and hospitality.

Grateful thanks to John Alexander, Cathy Corbishley Michel, PolarExplorers and others who donate items for our auctions. Our thanks also to those who bid enthusiastically to help our work like those who bid $100 for a pair of plastic rat earrings!

Øyas Venner are regular supporters and important collaborators. They also generously donate a box of their bi-lingual South Georgia calendar (Norwegian and English) to help us raise funds for our projects.

Finally, special thanks should to go to our Volunteer Fundraiser Lucy Hirschle who not only worked hard and effectively to help with the fundraising for three months, but who also cheerfully got involved in all other areas of the museum work.
The staff had to sledge their luggage to the staff house when they arrived.

The BAS folks lend some muscle to get the main cargo around the bay.

An unlikely job; rolling till rolls.

Putting the flags up marks the start of the season.

Washing the windows can need mountaineering skills.

For the annual deepclean we get into every nook and cranny, often with a paintbrush.