South Georgia Museum

Annual Report

2018-19

This report covers the period September 2018 to August 2019
Background and Statement of Purpose

The South Georgia Museum is located in the old whaling station manager’s villa and surrounding buildings in the remains of the whaling station at Grytviken. The museum buildings and the museum collection belong to the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) and are managed on their behalf by the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT).

The South Georgia Museum exists to protect, document and promote the cultural and natural history and heritage of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The museum aims to make this history and heritage accessible both to the visiting public and to those unable to visit this remote region, through exhibitions, education and outreach.

Introduction

It has been a busy year once again at the South Georgia Museum, and a good one, with new exhibitions, some great additions to the museum collection and a talented group of staff. Further preparations have been made towards the opening of a major building within the heritage site of Grytviken, and we had an exciting collaboration with the archaeologists who have started a programme investigating early sealing on the island.

Visitors continue to enjoy what the museum has to offer: exhibitions, tours and the gift shop, according to the evaluations gathered after visits. The appointment of a full time Curator will ensure we can do even more in future.

Staff

The core team was SGHT Director (South Georgia) Sarah Lurcock, Curatorial Intern (CI) Finlay Raffle, Museum Assistants Kerstin Langenberger and Laura Martin, and Fundraising Assistant Dani Spreitzer.

Finlay, a graduate at the University of St Andrews, had been working most recently at HMS Unicorn, Dundee. Kerstin from Germany returned for a second season. She is a semi-professional photographer and qualified Arctic Nature Guide. Laura is an Outdoor Instructor who has previously worked at Port Lockroy on the Antarctic Peninsula. Fundraising Assistant Dani from Australia was also returning for her second season. She has been working as an expedition leader and divemaster on a shark research vessel in South Australia.

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

The 2018-19 museum team by the whale catcher Petrel. Left to right: Kerstin, Sarah, Finlay, Laura and Dani.
Ship Visits and Tourism

Tourism is set to grow substantially in the next few years, but last season there was only a marginal increase in cruise ship passenger numbers compared to the previous season. GSGSSI records show 300 more cruise ship passengers (10,351), and slightly fewer cruise ship visits (77). These figures reflect the increase in average passenger capacity for the visiting cruise ships.

If visits from crew and expedition staff are included, the total number of visitors to the museum is about 50% higher. There were also 10 visits from research and Royal Navy vessels and a dozen visits from private and charter yachts.

The first cruise ship, Ushuaia, arrived on October 25th, and we were then pretty uniformly busy with ship calls throughout the season, only tailing off slightly in March. In one busy week towards the end of December, we greeted 1065 cruise ship passengers, 10% of the visitors for the whole season.

Two larger ships called: Seabourn Quest visited on Boxing Day bringing 420 passengers and in February Prinsendam brought 660 passengers.

A few ships are scheduling all day visits to Grytviken. Ships with higher passenger numbers tend to stay longer than smaller vessels. There is a maximum of 300 allowed ashore at Grytviken at any one time, spread across the whole site. Also, ships on longer South Georgia trips can give the site more time than those on a 2 or 3 day visit, often offering extended walks in the area.

GSGSSI expects tourism to South Georgia to increase two or three fold in the next few years, possibly reaching 30,000 visitors per season. A steep rise is expected in the 2020-21 season. We are considering how to adapt to the increase and will be trialling some new working methods in the season ahead.

Guided Tours

The guided tours are requested for the large majority of cruise ship visits. This season we offered two tours. The most requested was 'Whaling and the life of the whalers' which was performed for 65 visits, and is often given several times for each ship visit. For Seabourn Quest, for example, it was given six times. The ‘Shackleton at Grytviken’ tour was requested for about quarter of ship visits.
Both tours are regularly translated for non-English speakers. The tour guides work with the ship’s on-board translators to make them available for passengers who are Chinese, French, German and other nationalities.

Visitor Experience Evaluation

The museum evaluation process is a tool for measuring performance and encouraging comment from visitors. Visitors are invited to rate the museum and its services from 5 - Very Good to 1 - Very Poor.

The amount of time visitors spend in the museum is often limited by the length of a cruise ship visit to Grytviken and the number of other activities offered by expedition staff. Most people (65%) spent between 15 and 45 minutes visiting the museum and most (74%) would have liked more time.

Evaluation shows visitors rate the museum and its services as very good or good.
Participation is encouraged with a raffle incentive. The prize, a cold-cast bronze penguin figurine made at the museum, was won by someone from Jeffersonville, USA. As well as the evaluation process, there is a Visitor Comments book.

Independent reviews on Trip Advisor show 93% of reviewers on the website rate the museum as good or very good. All the latest TripAdvisor reviews can be read here: https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g1593028-d1598504-Reviews-South_Georgia_Museum-Grytviken.html#REVIEWS

Museum Displays

Two temporary art-based displays were installed in the Bonner Room, the main front entrance, at the start of the season.

A display of artworks resulting from the Artist in Residence of Theo Crutchley-Mack, who joined us during the 2017-18 season, took the place of a large map display. On entering the museum there was no escaping the visual impact of the big oil canvases powerfully portraying the disused whaling stations. The artist said, “The texture of the rust, combined with the solidity of the structures are a combination of attributes that lend themselves to my painting style, which involves mixing marble dust in with pigments that creates a sculptural quality to my process of painting”.

At the end of the season a small collection of the paintings was moved across to the Temporary Exhibition Area where they will remain on show throughout the coming season. Theo has already had a number of exhibitions of his South Georgia artworks in the UK, and there is currently one in the Falkland Islands Museum. Several other exhibitions of the works are planned. See https://www.crutchley-mack.com/news

Theo has recently published a 68 page hardback book about his residency.

This season the Temporary Exhibitions Area hosted a colourful exhibition by artist Alison Stattersfield who had hand woven scarves in designs inspired by the region. The exhibition ‘Scarf Stories from Antarctica’ featured eight very different scarves, some using surprising fibres such as monofilament. Elements of the scarves were representative of ice, water, tussac grass and other things, including the rusting whale oil tanks of Grytviken.

The scarves were hung on an old section of fence which has its own history, having once formed part of the iconic white picket fence around the South Georgia Commissioner’s home at Government House in Stanley, Falkland Islands.
At the end of the season the exhibition was sent for display in the Falkland Islands Museum.
You can read more about the artist and her work at https://theweaverbirdorg.wordpress.com

An exhibition on the history of the Church, which was initially installed at the back of the Church to celebrate its centenary in 2013, was updated and printed onto more durable panels. The reinstalled exhibition was then augmented by the addition of an old framed photograph of Adalbert Kielland, the architect who designed the Church. Kielland was the son-in-law of Grytviken whaling station founder Carl Anton Larsen. A bust of Larsen is mounted in the Church. It has now been joined by the bust of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Thanks to the generosity of a donor, this was purchased from the artist Anthony Smith, another former Artist in Residence, and then donated to the museum collection.

A particularly gratifying enhancement of an existing exhibition was to fill the hull of our replica James Caird lifeboat with stores. A small set of steps alongside the boat enables visitors to look inside to see how small she is, but inside there used to be just a spar and some sails. Now when you look in, the small space appears crammed with stores and equipment similar to what would have been packed into the original boat, along with the six men, as it sailed from Elephant Island to South Georgia. Sledge boxes, canvas stuff sacks, a reindeer skin and a stove sit atop boulders and stones that represent the tonne and a half of stones loaded into the boat at Elephant Island to steady her for the huge seas she would face on the crossing.

Many other smaller changes were made to various permanent exhibitions to augment, update, enhance and/or improve them. For instance the steam gauges that had been on display in the Whalers Trades Room were moved into the Carr Maritime Gallery. These gauges were from the vessel Dias and are now displayed with other pieces relating to that sealing ship. The vacated space in the Whalers Trades Room now displays a box from Leith Harbour filled with overtime books. A study of one of the books highlights the incredibly long hours the whalers used to
accumulate, with one boilermaker managing to amass almost 920 hours of overtime in only seven months (that is about four hours a day overtime every day of the week on top of the basic long hours).

Only around half of visitors to the museum have English as a first language, so we are pleased to now have the Museum Highlights leaflet available in German, French and Chinese.

**Curatorship**

We are delighted to announce that the South Georgia Museum will once again have a full-time curator. Jayne Dunn joined us in September 2019. Jayne has most recently worked as Head of Collections Management at UCL Culture, University College London. The new position at the South Georgia Museum is partly funded by a kind donor.

We are looking forward to working with and getting to know Curator Jayne Dunn.

In recent years, curation has been done by a series of Curatorial Interns: a position offered to a recent graduate of the St Andrews University Museum and Galleries Study course. We hope to be able to offer this opportunity again soon.

This season the curatorial work of the museum was undertaken by CI Finlay Raffle. Finlay was given an especially good start as the CI from the previous season, Charlotte Yeung, was at Grytviken undertaking a separate project (see below) and was able to give him some on-the-site training. He achieved a considerable amount of work during the season and enjoyed the opportunity the internship gave him. In his end of tenure report Finlay wrote, “The opportunity of working at the South Georgia Museum has been both a pleasure and a privilege. I have been able to develop my curatorial skills and knowledge and the experience has provided me with a fantastic base with which to build my professional career……The six months I have spent in Grytviken have been truly life changing and it has cemented my passion for museums and cultural heritage. I will always cherish my time on South Georgia and the work I did at the South Georgia Museum.”

**The Museum Collection: Acquisitions, Gifts and Loans**

*By Curatorial Intern Finlay Raffle*

The museum’s historic collection continued to grow this season with over thirty newly accessioned artefacts. In January the museum was fortunate enough to be given the Argentinian flag that had been removed from the station on Thule Island, South Sandwich Islands, during Operation Keyhole in June 1982. This is an incredibly important object which
Another major acquisition was a scale-model of Shackleton’s ship *Endurance*, constructed and donated by Ken Greenwood from Georgia, USA. This substantial model was shipped with the assistance of Lindblad Expeditions aboard their vessel *NG Explorer*. The attention to detail by the model maker shows the expedition’s kit, including sledges, strewn about the decks which are already crammed with the kennels housing the expedition dogs. There is even a little model man on the deck with his tripod and camera representing the photographer Frank Hurley.

With the aid of the GSGSSI Building Team, we had a custom base made for the model and it is now prominently displayed in the Fullerton Room, alongside our fantastic Shackleton collection. With so many visitors attracted to Grytviken by the incredible adventures of ‘the Boss’, the addition of this model has been very well received and has brought the story of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition to life. The model maker will visit at the start of next season when he will remove the model’s travelling straps and make good a little disruption to the model resulting from the long journey from Georgia, USA.

The Building Team also salvaged a variety of objects and materials from Leith Harbour whaling station, including an extraordinary gravestone mould. Recovered from the Pump House, this wooden cross would have been used to create the concrete gravestones for the large cemetery at Leith and is truly a unique piece.

Throughout the season the museum continued to collect artefacts in connection with the history of the whaling stations. Two key collections that were acquired relate to Sinclair Begg, manager of Leith Harbour in the 1940s, and Philip Douglas Tyler, electronic technician at Grytviken in the 1950s. The Sinclair Begg collection includes some charming pieces such as a chess set handcrafted from whale tooth
and wood, and a rather grotesque sculpture - a portrait of a man’s head, created from the ear bones of a whale. The artefacts donated from Philip Douglas Tyler - including a diary, photographs and slides - provide a more personal account of life at Grytviken and have enriched the museum’s social history collection.

A box of lifeboat supplies, rescued at the end of last summer from the lifeboat of the wrecked whalecatcher *Southern Foster* at Jumbo Cove, was in remarkably good condition. The sealed tin was packed with bottled barley sugar and tinned ships biscuits. One bottle of barley sugar was found to be broken inside its cardboard box. The box was saved but the bottle and its contents were disposed of. A couple of curious museum staff sampled the aged sweets which had been on a South Georgia beach for 60 years and wished they had not bothered. They were disgusting! The lifeboat stores, and a bailer that had been salvaged from the lifeboat at the same time, are now on display alongside the lifeboat *Owen Smith* from the catcher *Southern Star* in the Carr Maritime Gallery.

2018-2019 has been another wonderful season of acquisitions for the South Georgia Museum and we hope to see the collection develop and grow into the future.

Much of the South Georgia Museum’s collection can be viewed on line on [eHive](https://ehive.southgeorgiamuseum.org/).

**Collections Care**

We are always trying to improve how we protect artefacts. For instance artefacts that are displayed will be more vulnerable to light damage than those packed in boxes in the artefact store. Light covers were made for several cases that house more vulnerable items such as those made of material or paper. The light covers are left on at all times except when the museum has visitors.

LED light is less damaging to artefacts than older light bulbs, so further work has been done by the GSGSSI Building Team to replace older light fittings with LEDs, whilst also improving the lighting in some cases, especially those in the Natural History section.
More floor shields were made for some of the larger artefacts that sit directly on the floor. A floor shield not only delineates a space around the object, reducing the likelihood of people bumping into it, but it also protects the artefact from wet floors and decreases the likelihood of damage through cleaning too close to it.

Projects and Special Events

Cataloguing the Main Store
The Main Store is a large two-storey building near the catcher slipway in the repair yard area of Grytviken Whaling Station. It was built in around 1920 as a store for tools, machinery and spare parts. The building is a precious historical remnant of the whaling station; one of only two factory buildings that remain intact. It is a very atmospheric place to go into. Both floors are filled with shelves which are mainly full of whaling stores. There is a small office space on both floors, and a railway line runs down the middle aisle of the ground floor. This would have eased the movement of stores into and out of the building by means of men pushing V-Tipper trucks along the rails.

A specialist team was brought in by GSGSSI to clean the building and its contents of historic dust. The work started ahead of the start of the season, so last season’s curator, Charlotte Yeung, was employed by SGHT to advise on the handling of the historic objects. She ensured that everything was replaced just as it was found, and catalogued every artefact within the huge building. The stores include objects as diverse as shelves full of nuts and bolts in a huge variety of sizes, old cork lifejackets, radar sets still in their packing boxes, spare parts for the whalecatchers and racks of metal piping. The resulting catalogue can now be used both as a historic record and to assist planning towards opening the building to the public. Once they are able to go in, visitors will better understand the complexity and specificity of the whaling process. The vast quantities of specialised artefacts on display also demonstrate the self-sufficiency of the remote whaling station and the scale of operations.

The South Georgia Archaeological Project
An archaeological project to investigate the history of the 18th and 19th century American and British sealing industry on South Georgia, organised by the SGHT, started this year. The motor vessel Hans Hansson was chartered to bring a team of archaeologists from the University
of Cambridge down to the island. The detailed archaeological survey of the beaches where the sealers worked is expected to reveal information that will add to the sparse historical records of the early sealing industry and give a better picture of the sealers’ occupation of South Georgia and their early impact upon the island’s ecology.

This first trip was hugely successful. In a thirty day period a variety of sites around the island were investigated during which the party unearthed evidence of tryworks (where animals would have been boiled down for oil), habitations, and found tools and personal items left by the sealers. The archaeologists were assisted in their fieldwork by some citizen scientists whose presence on the trip helped offset the cost of the project. The expedition was also accompanied by Neil Golding of the South Atlantic Research Institute (SAERI) who undertook fieldwork for the Darwin Initiative funded Coastal Margins Habitat Survey. His photographic coverage with a drone was also extremely useful for the archaeologists.

When the archaeologists visited Grytviken towards the end of their fieldwork, we had an exciting time at the museum working with them. They wanted to see everything that was already in the museum collection that related to this sealing period. So the artefact stores were raided for boxes containing bottles, tools, fragments of china and glass, sections of clay pipes and even a felt hat that had been used to collect penguin eggs. All the items had been collected at potential sealing sites over the years and then deposited at the museum. Most exciting of all was a large fragment of a cooking vessel on display in the Larsen Room sealing display which was found to match another fragment that the archaeologists had collected at the same site. Using the two fragments it may be possible to create a 3D image of the original vessel.

Specimens collected on the trip have now been shipped to the UK for further investigation. As a result of the new discoveries, the SG Museum plans to update the current exhibition on sealing, and will be working to assist Mystic Seaport Museum, USA, mount an exhibition relating to South Atlantic sealing that may then be offered to other institutions as a travelling exhibition.

You can read more about this project on the SGHT website and at the other links below

www.sght.org/sealing-archaeological-project
twitter.com/sg_archaeology
www.facebook.com/SouthGeorgiaArchaeologicalProject
www.quixote-expeditions.com/news

New Website
The South Georgia Museum website is in the process of being updated. The new version should go live in the coming months and give us an updated look and allow us to add new content. We have always been aware that the majority of people will not be able to visit the Museum, so it has been a long-term aim to include a virtual tour of the museum. With the
assistance of Emile Shemilt of the Centre for Remote Environments (CRE), University of Dundee, a tour is being constructed using images from a camera that took 360° footage inside the museum. We hope soon, via the footage, to welcome virtual visitors who can visually ‘walk through the doors of the museum’ and take a look around.

**Special Visitors**

In March, we were delighted to once again to welcome the Commissioner, Nigel Phillips, to the Museum. GSGSSI were hosting the annual visit that brings stakeholder representatives on a short visit to the island. Earlier in the season we enjoyed our interactions with Tom Chance, Desk Officer from the FCO, who was on a familiarisation visit. 

HMS *Clyde* has been the Royal Navy’s designated Falkland Islands patrol vessel for a number of years, and has been a regularly visitor to South Georgia. We were especially glad to share in their Remembrance Service in the Church and host them to coffee afterwards.

**Visit a Little Longer Than Intended**

As happens in place like South Georgia, there were two ship visits where passengers were unexpected delayed getting back to their vessel due to strong winds. On both occasions the museum hosted the stranded groups. There is a well thought out GSGSSI plan for dealing with such events, with a lot of equipment and provision made for potentially more serious future events.

In November a small group of tourists were ashore for a short while longer than planned when high winds caused zodiac operations to be suspended. The visitors were invited into the museum staff room to warm up and for tea and cake. They were able to return to the ship a little later when the winds had dropped.

A larger group were held for what looked likely to turn into an overnight stay in January. GSGSSI co-ordinated with the other agencies on the island and soon over 100 people had been provided with chairs and blankets in the museum to make them more comfortable. Working with the ship’s staff, everyone was given a hot drink whilst preparations were made in case there was an overnight stay. Luckily, the winds eventually eased enough for our guests to safely return to their ship.

**Events for the Locals**

As always we encourage the people working at South Georgia to be aware of the history of the island, and in particular, that of the heritage site of Grytviken which is on their doorstep. So we ran several tours just for the locals (British Antarctic Survey (BAS) staff and others working at KEP and Grytviken). There was also a special opening of the museum and shop early in the season in good time for everyone to get Christmas presents to send home. These events almost invariably involve offers of tea and cake!

The annual event to decorate the Church for Christmas was very well attended. The mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine on offer do help to get everyone to the church. The work
was soon done and everyone decamped to the BBQ under the Bone Loft in the whaling station; an unusual and atmospheric venue.

There is always a cuppa for the locals at the museum, and the Bone Loft was a great place to host the BBQ after decorating the Church.

A weekly series of talks is hosted at King Edward Point (KEP) where anyone working on the island can present any subject to the locals. The museum staff, with their adventurous lives and many skills, gave talks on their work with sharks, the aurora borealis and travel to the opposite end of the world.

Where work allows, the museum staff are encouraged to take advantage of the odd opportunities that occur to do something completely different. With the visit of Sea Spirit, artist Falcon Scott, grandson of Captain Scott, held a drawing workshop in the whaling station and some staff were able to join in. Staff were invited again to join the beautiful Bark Europa for a short sail from Maiviken around to KE Cove. Staff also enthusiastically assisted with various science projects, including fur seal pup weighing, to assist the local BAS scientists, and with the collection of water samples for a study of microplastics by a visiting scientist.

Gift shop

The Gift Shop is popular with visitors and during cruise ship visits is crowded with eager shoppers wishing to find souvenirs to take home. The profits from the shop support both museum activities and the work of the SGHT. This season, to encourage sale of some of the older stock, we created an end-of-line sale area in the small room at the back of the shop. This room had formerly been used as a store and occasional dressing room. The change worked very well with savvy shoppers making a beeline to find some great bargains.

Some items can be very popular during a specific ship visit. For two ships in a row, we had a run on the fun wooden penguins. Staff had to keep trudging up and down the stairs to the stockrooms to fetch armfuls more until they ran out! By the end of the season there was little

Some of the museum team went sailing with Bark Europa.
left in the stockrooms, so leaving lots of space for the new and exciting items that are now en route to the island for the season ahead.

Where possible, items for the shop are high quality, ethically traded and environmentally friendly. Shop Buyer Liz Adams has developed new T-shirt designs which, to aid the drive to do away with unnecessary packaging, are packed in a paper sleeve.

Some of the new products, in environmentally friendly packaging, that will be on sale in the Gift Shop next season.

The staff continue to make items for the SG Island Craft range. The work to make the items, like magnets, figurines and Christmas decorations, can be a welcome and creative change to their other work, and is a good way to use up odd moments, for instance whilst waiting for a ship’s passengers to land.

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

Fundraising

SGHT and FOSGI run and support a variety of projects on South Georgia. With the success of the huge Habitat Restoration Project to remove rodents from the island behind them, the proof that these two organisations can make such a measurable difference to a special part of the world aids the continued support from visitors to the island. The museum team gives fundraising presentations on board the cruise ships. Fundraising Assistant Dani shared the main task of presenting with the SG Director Sarah. Museum Assistant Kerstin also gave presentations in her mother tongue on ships with German-speaking groups.

It was fun to be able to give up-to-the-minute information on some projects being supported by the charities, such as the second trial of biosecurity dogs based in the Falklands, the work on Southern Right and Humpback Whales being undertaken by a group of visiting scientists based at KEP, and the archaeological expedition (see above). Most of the ships now raise further funds by holding on-board auctions after they have left Grytviken. This could not happen without the enthusiasm and support of the ships’ expedition staff who so often ‘go the extra mile’ to assist us.
One of the last ships of the season, Silver Cloud, brought down some great little crocheted and knitted penguins. They had been made by the ‘Knit and Natter’ group, part of the Connects2Project in Glasgow, Scotland, and had travelled via both the Arctic and Antarctic to reach us. They will be used in future auctions to support the work of SGHT/FOSGI.

Buildings and Maintenance

The GSGSSI Building Team is responsible for the larger maintenance works on the museum buildings, with the museum team taking on the smaller tasks.

The GSGSSI Building Team made some impressive progress on a number of heritage projects around Grytviken. At the beginning of the season they oversaw the cleaning of Main Store by a specialist firm; where every bit of the inside of the buildings and all its contents were cleaned. Later in the season the building was painted. It was a tough summer for this job, with a lot of poor weather making it a race against time before the summer season ended to get the many layers of paint onto this huge building to conserve its wriggly tin shell and return it to a the yellow/cream colour it used to be.

The collection of historic photographs we hold at the museum were in use to help advise the GSGSSI team on various aspects of the correct detail of the station like the colour of the doors around the Plan and the whereabouts of the original timbers from the whalers’ slipway. These timbers were successfully unearthed to help interpret the functions of the ‘Repair Yard’ area of the station.

We also worked with the GSGSSI team on the cemetery fence. Overwinter, the fence had been buried in deep snow for the first time in a number of years and consequently much of the paint had loosened. We soon learnt to take extra tools around to the cemetery when we

The museum team weed and mow in the cemetery and helped to repaint the fence.
were working there as locals out for a walk were often happy to stop and work alongside us for an hour or so. This project was ongoing at the end of the season.

Within the cemetery, ground movement and settling of the graves are inevitable. Shackleton’s grave was also affected, so the GSGSSI team levelled the ground around it and relaid the granite stone sets around it. The improvement is considerable. The museum team weeded and mowed the cemetery to help keep it looking kempt.

After a year-long absence of the original cross, a replica cross was erected at the site of Shackleton’s Memorial on Hope Point. Fittingly the new cross was installed on Shackleton’s birthday, February 15th. The original cross is too badly rotted to be repairable, but will be collected and displayed in the museum in the coming season. Once again the museum archive was useful to find old photographs of the memorial cairn, enabling the GSGSSI team to rebuild it to more closely resemble how it originally looked. During WW2 it had been moved to allow for the installation of a four-inch gun. A copy of the signed photograph of the Quest crew is still secreted within the cairn and the museum arranged for the metal tube containing the photograph to be made more watertight. The original photograph is in the collection at the Scott Polar Research Institute.

The museum team concentrated outdoor maintenance work on repainting and conserving two of the whale cannons displayed in front of the museum. All the objects in this outdoor display have to be kept well maintained to preserve them against damage by the harsh marine climate.

Some more accommodation for the museum team was created by the GSGSSI Maintenance team by converting the museum main workshop, which occupied a central section of a modern building between the Carr Maritime Gallery and Public Toilets, into a small double bunk accommodation.

Looking Ahead

At the start of next season we will install a new display in the Bonner Room (entrance hall) that highlights some of the more notable expeditions to South Georgia. The exhibition is centred on a large map, replacing a map that was dated but still popular with visitors. A new bespoke map has been developed for the display with the assistance of the BAS Mapping and GIS team.
(MAGIC). The exhibition will develop throughout the season with the addition of artefacts and text panels. By the end of the summer we hope the map will be surrounded by objects like skis, crampons, snow shoes and paddles, all of which were used on the seven highlighted expeditions.

Looking further into the future we will be working on the interpretation for the Main Store ahead of it being opened to the public, possibly in 2020. We will also be working towards special exhibitions that will mark the *Quest* Expedition and Shackleton’s death aboard the *Quest* and his burial at Grytviken.

**Pauline Carr**

The South Georgia Museum and SGHT were greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Pauline Carr in August 2019. Pauline and her husband Tim, who arrived at South Georgia on their yacht *Curlew*, were instrumental in developing the South Georgia Museum into a collection that represented every aspect of the island.

Pauline deeply loved South Georgia and she and Tim were passionate protectors of the island’s wildlife. In 2006, after many years living and working on South Georgia, they decided to retire, but undertook a lecturing tour of the USA in early 2007 to raise funds for SGHT. One outcome of which was the purchase of the *James Caird* replica for the South Georgia Museum. That tour also helped raise awareness of the SGHT’s Habitat Restoration project, of which they were strong supporters. After leaving South Georgia Tim and Pauline moved to New Zealand but managed to return regularly as expedition staff on cruise ships.

**Environmental Care**

The museum and gift shop are constantly trying to improve practices to reduce waste and be more eco-friendly. Increasingly things like cleaning materials and equipment are eco-friendly. We no longer purchase plastic bags for the shop and will make a charge to customers who want any of the remaining stock of bags. We recycle everything we can, and have improved practices to reduce things like releasing microplastics. To this end we dry and then empty tea bags and wash fabrics that might create microplastics in micron-filter bags.
How to Support Our Work

Artefacts
The South Georgia Museum is always glad to hear of any artefacts, papers, photographs or books that could be donated to the Museum Collection, archives and library. So if you have anything that you think may be of interest please get in touch. Information on how to contact us is below.

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.

Postal Address: South Georgia Museum, Grytviken, South Georgia, S1QQ 1ZZ, via Falkland Islands, South Atlantic.
(Add ‘via UK’ if posting from outside the UK)

Emails:
Curator: museum@sght.org
SGHT Director SG: sghdirectorsg@sght.org

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

If you know of anyone who would like to receive an electronic copy of the South Georgia Museum Annual Report do please give us their name and email address.
The Museum Online

You will find occasional news and monthly updates from the museum team through the season posted in the ‘Latest News’ section on www.sgmuseum.gs
New blogs are also posted on the SGHT Facebook page.

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. They can be viewed on a chart reached from the Museum Website.

Acknowledgements

It is only possible to operate the museum in such a remote place as South Georgia with the assistance and goodwill of many organisations and people. There are always many more people that assist us than we can mention by name, so thank you all for your support, be it financial, through donating an artefact, by providing a service or by working with us.

We would also like to thank:
GSGSSI who maintain the museum buildings and provide the logistics and infrastructure on the island. GSGSSI provide an annual grant to cover part of the museum’s running costs.

The people working on the island for BAS and GSGSSI without whose cooperation and assistance we could not operate the museum.

We would like to say thank you to everyone who donated artefacts, books, photographs, historical information, papers etc. to the Museum Collection.

Special thanks to Susan and David Marshall for their donation of items relating to Leith Manager Sinclair Begg. And to Dennis Hebden who did so much work collating and digitising various documents before sending them down to us.

To the Captains and crew of FPV Pharos SG, thank you for your hospitality and friendship and for all you do to assist us, not least getting us comfortably to and from the island.

Thank you to the Adrian Fox and especially to the patient Laura Gerrish of BAS MAGIC for helping to design and produce the map for our new display.

Grateful thanks to Greg and Jan Winchester, for donating the single casting (edition of only one) Shackleton bust to the museum collection.

The staff and crew of NG Explorer for their fantastic support to ship the Endurance model from Panama to South Georgia.
Thank you to the locals who volunteered or gave in to gentle arm twisting to assist us on the two days when we had the larger ships in. Without their help we would not be able to run all the services we do for these larger ships. The visiting whale scientists were brilliant, bringing biscuits to keep everyone going and helping out behind the scenes.

Special thanks to Vicki, Kieran, Ali and John, BAS scientists, who are sometimes aboard the cruise ships with us to give a talk on their science projects, and who will often happily assist us handing out forms and chatting to the visitors when we are busy processing certificates for fundraising.

Øyas Venner (Norwegian Friends of the Island) continues to support us by donating their historically informative calendars, and thank you to the operators of Fram for bringing the box of calendars down for us from Norway.

Bob Burton is better than the books! His accurate historical knowledge, research and the many ways he supports the work of the museum is invaluable. He continues to source, and be a collection point for, artefacts and to arrange for them to be shipped to us with the further assistance of BAS Cambridge.

Thank you to all the translators who work with us to translate presentations and tours and assist us communicating around the museum with non-English speaking visitors.

Thanks you to BAS Cambridge, and in particular Rod Strachan the BAS Logistics Coordinator for KEP, for their helpful attitude and support.

Tom Adams makes a considerable donation to the success of the Gift Shop and fundraising by making super exclusive craft items and donating them to us.

Thank you to Kerstin Langenberger for allowing us to use some of her superb photographs in this report and for other museum uses.

Ann Gunn of St Andrews University has been a great support for our curatorial work.

We have so many people, especially the expedition staff on the cruise ships, who do such a lot to help us. Their support of our work at the museum and for our fundraising efforts is essential and makes such a difference to what we can all achieve.

The GSGSSI Maintenance Team are patient and always willing to give us advice where we need it for our maintenance programme. They have also helped us achieve some significant and worthwhile changes to exhibits, and they built the base for the Endurance model and helped to move the Shackelton bust to the Church and so much more. Thank you for all the cooperation and friendship.

Thank you to those who make or donate items for the auctions. Our thanks for the continued support of Cathy Corbishley, Bruce Pearson, John Alexander, Richard Gatien, and to the Knit
and Natter group at Connects2Project and Cathy and Chas of Ngwenya Glass. Thank you also to the wonderful people who bid so generously in the auctions.

Thank you to all on the visiting vessels who are so friendly and hospitable. We have lots of invitations to come go board for a meal or a drink. You all know the chance of a visit to the salad bar is always welcome!

Thank you to all at Sullivan Shipping Services Ltd in the Falkland Islands. They are ever helpful and regularly get us out of a tight spot when we are trying to organise logistics in a place 800 miles away.

The work of the museum team is varied: from strimming and rehanging, through scraping and cleaning to unpacking and fire training, not forgetting painting and counting.