A member of the Society contacted me some months ago to ask what has become of the figurehead from SS Terra Nova and what condition it is in. After enquiring with the National Museum of Wales I was told that it was in the National Collections Centre in Nantgarw and that I could visit by appointment. I was shown around the Centre by Jennifer Proctor-Jones who curates over 600,000 items ranging from boats, through major artworks to double decker buses. It really is an eye-opener and as tours can be arranged I think that we’ll put this on the agenda for 2020 coupled with a lunch.

The figurehead looks pristine, but Jennifer pointed out that this is largely due to copious amounts of wood filler and acrylic paint that underneath all that is a very rotten structure (see page 4). It has recently been on tour to Australia so has a beautifully built transport cabinet to protect it in transit and storage. We are going to see if the Pierhead Building directorate will request the figurehead on loan so that it can be displayed near the hms, which has been there for some time.

Following my report in the Spring Newsletter, Jonathan Williams the sculptor of the Scott 100 Memorial in the Bay, has received funding from the council to repair the mosaic once again and he hopes that the marine grade grout and sealer that he will use has a more enduring effect than the repairs effected in 2018. I’m rather dubious and think that in the next few years a relocation or protective structure will need to be on the cards.

There are the usual end of year events coming up as described in the newsletter so do try to come to them. The Cardiff & County Club will look after us for the Autumn Dinner as it’s so popular and convenient and Maria Leijerstam will be our guest speaker and will tell us what she’s been up to since her major first of cycling to the South Pole. We may one day return to the Cardiff Bay ya that has been so successful in getting so many men and staff changes in the past 2 years that we were a bit nervous about using it.

Brexit (or maybe not?) soon so gird your loins!

Best wishes

Julian Rosser

Chairman

julianrosser1@gmail.com

News

Transglobe Expedition

Matthew Salisbury and I travelled to London on the 2nd September to attend the 6th Anniversary of the Transglobe Expedition at the Royal Geographic Society.
Hosted by the ever-lovely Joanna Lamley the main auditorium was packed to the rafters by young and old.

Key members of the team described how this mad brained idea stirred its way through seven years of planning, sponsorship and almost insurmountable obstacles thrown up by authorities to get to a start in 1979.

Ollie Shepard, Armin Bowring and Simon Grimes described Land Rover travel and safari through Africa then life, routine, highs and lows in Antarctica, followed by the harrowing two man journey through the Yukons and across the Arctic Ice to the North Pole.

Ron described how with Ginnie acting as base commander ensured the expedition achieved its objective by refusing to allow an airlift from the ice and for their ship the Benjamin Bowring to break through the ice and finally bring Ron and Charlie Barton safely back to Greenwich.

Run finally summed up the whole expedition when he divulged how the team members were chosen.

"It’s not what they specialise in, but they do have to be "Nice""

Editor.

Welsh Adventurer Ash Dykes

Following on from last autumn newsletter it has been officially announced that Ash Dykes has now completed his grueling 4,000 mile solo trek along the Yangtze River.

Ash set off from the source of the river in Tibet and completed the journey to its outlet in the East China Sea at Shanghai.

Having travelled through eleven provinces and negotiated some extreme weather conditions Ash is now setting out on a lecture tour in China before returning to Old Cobyn for a well deserved rest.

Maria’s Extreme Nordic Adventure

Just weeks before her embarking, adventurer Maria Leijerstam, the first person in the world to cycle to the South Pole, prepared for a very different way to most brides-to-be.

Maria decided to throw herself back into the super competitive world of extreme World Series Adventure Racing in a seven day, 700 kilometre non-stop race in Scandinavia.

In July Maria, competed in the epic Nordic Islands Adventure Race across glacier
sections in the high mountains of Sweden and icy water crossings in the fjords of Norway.

Maria ran, cycled and kayaked as she navigated the route with her team, resting only for a few hours to sleep during the gruelling seven day event.

Maria and her team only got to know the route just before the start date and whilst others were working with the team were pleased with the performance. Maria is our guest speaker for the Autumn event in October - see booking form for details.

SPirit of Adventure Award Winners at Sea

The expedition is underway and aims to prove that the Phoenicians could have reached the Americas 2000 years before Christopher Columbus.

After careful consideration this years Sir Vivian Fuchs Youth Award went to Ollie Marvei for his Kayak Drina Expedition to the Balkans. The Spirit of Adventure Award went to Philip Beale for his Phenicians Before Columbus Expedition. Philip took time from a busy funding / sponsorship schedule to attend our annual dinner and receive the award cheque. A brief presentation on the expedition objective was well received by those attending.

Since receiving the award the Kayak Drina Expedition has been completed and an excellent report has been received by the secretary.

Philip Beale’s expedition is now underway and the crew with their vessel Phoenicia have successfully navigated from Plymouth to Tunisia and are preparing to set sail from Cartaglia for the Arctic crossing in September.

I was recently invited to talk to a class of youngsters in St. Mary the Virgin School in Butetown; they had been working on a history project that involved Captain Scott and his Terra Nova expedition. It was great fun telling them about the expedition and drawing comparisons with how the world communicates now and the remoteness of Antarctic travel in 1910.

The question and answer session certainly kept me on my toes. A few weeks later I was invited to their Captain Scott and Cardiff exhibition. The standard of artwork was impressive.

SPRING EVENT AT HOWELL’S SCHOOL TUESDAY 30TH APRIL, 2019

Members and guests joined with the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales for a presentation by Diana Preston FRGS. The attendance of our president and his wife at the Christmas lunch was another first.

The Treasurer was able to report that events had broken even and accounts were balanced. However, the society operates on a very modest income and members are requested to ensure subscriptions are up to date and on time.

The Membership Secretary reported new applications have balanced out resignations and membership stands at 180.

The Kayak Drina Expedition is scheduled for the success of the of the 2018 adventure award winners and announced the winners of the annual road race.

With no further business to attend to Sir Norman declared the meeting over and the guest speaker was presented with a description of his forthcoming adventure "Phoenicians before Columbus".

It was then time for the chairman to introduce the guest speaker Robert Burton - Antarctic Guide, Historian and recipient of the Polar Medal.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT

A review of the membership has recently been completed. Postal and email addresses adjusted where necessary. We welcome new members Karen Wood and Duncan Cantley to the society. We stand at one hundred and eighty.

Peter F. Coleman
peter.f.coleman@btinternet.com

REPORTS OF PAST EVENTS

FUCHS YOUTH AWARD WINNER 2018 - JOE McDERMOTT PRESENTATION TUESDAY 16TH APRIL, 2019

Able to follow up his successful Tour de Mont Blanc expedition Joe requested the opportunity to present his report in person to the society.

As leader of the four-man expedition he gave an excellent audiovisual talk on the objectives, logistics and leadership patterns adopted in this adventure.

This was the first time a youth award winner has presented a report to the members and those attending were greatly impressed by this young man’s confidence and ability to engage with the audience.

In addition Joe is a member of the 2018 award winning Kayak Drina team and is seen receiving the cheque from Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards with proud father.

COLUMBUS EXPEDITION 2018

To commemorate his successful Columbus Expedition Christopher Columbus.

The talk was based on her acclaimed book "A First Rate Tragedy".

The well-paced hour long presentation was enhanced with period photographs, maps, charts and diagrams projected onto a large screen in the dining hall.

This ensured all attending could become involved in the story of the Discovery and Terra Nova expeditions.

Following the talk a two-course dinner with wine and the Spring Event was a most enjoyable change of venue for the society.

THE 36TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE PRESENTATION

Once again our vice president Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards acted as chairman and ensured the agenda was executed expeditiously.

The chairman reported on another successful year and was happy to declare the autumn event at the Cardiff and County Club the Christmas Lunch at the USM and the Spring Dinner at Howell’s School had all been well subscribed and thoroughly enjoyed.

Bob delivered a fascinating talk entitled "The Spycle of Mariners" basically the strange and awful history of scurvy and in concluding his talk Bob signed off by saying the boat sized wedge of lime in your Gin and Tonic.

Bob proposed a toast to the society, the success of the expedition and the party moved to the bar for night caps and canapés.

Bob gave a speech entitled the Three Js of Dundee’s history, Jute, Jam and Journalism. The rest of the evening was spent listening to Bob and Rodierick swapping tales of old Dundee.

A nightcap in The Phoenix rounded off an event packed day, happy 151st Robert Louis Stevenson.

ANNUAL FAREWELL DINNER HELD AT THE ROYAL HOTEL SATURDAY 5TH JUNE, 2019

In a break with tradition this year’s dinner was held on the 15th June with the express view of attracting more attendees. Numbers were slightly up on the previous year, but not dramatically so.

Members and guests enjoyed the sparkling wine reception in the sun lit Terra Nova bar.

The Toasts were delivered by the chairman and the evening included a presentation of the Hide award and the Society Grace.

The society grace and the chairman welcomed everyone to the dinner in his inimitable manner, referring to the signing and passing of notes, easing of springs and various other traditions.

The seven course dinner and its service was again excellent and thanks go to manager John Swingle and his ever attention staff.

The chairmain invited the expedition secretary to introduce the Spirit of Adventure award winner Philip Beale. Following presentation of the cheque, Philip gave a description of his forthcoming adventure "Phoenicians before Columbus".

The annual farewll dinner was held at the Royal Hotel, Dunippiede, on the 5th June, 2019. The event included a stroll through the market and the story behind “Juteopolis”.

A nightcap in The Phoenix rounded off an event packed day, happy 151st Robert Louis Laundry.

Day three included a stroll through the sun baked city to visit the Verdant Jute Works and the story behind "Juteopolis".

Lunch was taken at the Taza Indian Restaurant: amazing food and incredible value, we thanked Bob for his organisation and hand off for late afternoon flights to Cardiff.

The Society Grace was delivered by the chairman and the evening included a presentation of the Hide award and the Society Grace.

The society grace and the chairman welcomed everyone to the dinner in his inimitable manner, referring to the signing and passing of notes, easing of springs and various other traditions.