

**Press Release**

**The Morag Husband Campbell Medal**  
**South Georgia Association**  
**2022 Award to Professor Tony Martin**

The South Georgia Association is delighted to announce the award for the fifth year of the Morag Husband Campbell medal for 2022 to Professor Tony Martin, *“in recognition of his outstanding and dedicated contributions to South Georgia in particular his pivotal role in the South Georgia Heritage Trust Habitat Restoration Programme of the Island and as a consequence promoting a wider appreciation of these islands”*

**The Medal** has been made possible by a generous bequest from a long-standing supporter of the Association, Miss Morag Husband Campbell. She was so enthralled when visiting South Georgia, she determined to leave a bequest to the SGA. The Medal comprises a Sterling silver relief medallion, 60mm in diameter. The name of the awardee is inscribed on the reverse.

**The Recipient**

Professor Martin, on secondment to the South Georgia Heritage Trust, led their Habitat Restoration Project, that successfully reversed the devastation caused by rats that threatened the globally important seabird sanctuary of South Georgia, a British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic. This was the world's largest rodent eradication operation.

Following three seasons of baiting the Island by helicopter, a comprehensive survey at the end of 2017 failed to detect a single rodent. Native bird numbers are recovering and the song of the endemic South Georgia pipit, previously under threat of extinction due to rodent predation, is now heard everywhere on the island.

In recognition of his exceptional leadership Professor Tony Martin was named as Conservationist of the Year in 2016 by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

Prior to the Habitat Restoration Project, Professor Martin spent many years as a cetacean biologist with the Sea Mammal Research Unit at St. Andrews, before transferring to the British Antarctic Survey in a broader role, leading investigations of the Southern Ocean foodweb.

He joined the University of Dundee in 2010, and has also been a UK delegate to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission since 1979. Tony Martin is a keen seabird biologist and passionate about conservation,

The Award will be presented to Tony Martin at the next meeting of the Association.

## Notes for Editors:

**The Award:** is to individuals who have contributed significantly to the understanding, appreciation and promotion of South Georgia. This includes i) scientific studies as well as the arts and humanities including culture, history, heritage, artistic endeavour etc. ii) adventurous travel and "exploration", iii) activities which enhance the wider appreciation of South Georgia (e.g. in the media or through administrative functions).

**South Georgia:** is a sub-Antarctic island and a British Overseas Territory in the southern Atlantic Ocean. It is remote, mountainous and of exceptional natural beauty, with abundant wildlife both on the island and in the surrounding ocean. Uninhabited apart from two small research stations and a few government employees, it is an unspoilt wilderness with a fascinating heritage that is none the less environmentally vulnerable and has been featured in the recent Blue Planet II series. It is 165 km long and some 35-km wide. The Falkland Islands are about 1,300 km (810 mi) west. Captain James Cook made the first landing in 1775. It was the base for the extensive harvesting of fur and elephant seals in the late 18th and 19th Centuries. From 1904 to the 1960s its primary activity was whaling. Sir Ernest Shackleton landed and traversed the island after his perilous crossing from Elephant Island in 1916. He died on a subsequent expedition and is buried at the whaling station of Grytviken.

**The South Georgia Association:** was formed in 2001 to give voice to those who care for South Georgia and has several hundred members. Its aims are to encourage interest in, and concern for, the island of South Georgia, to encourage the study of South Georgia, and promote the conservation of its natural and cultural heritage, and to promote contacts and encourage fellowship among those who have lived and worked in or around South Georgia, have visited or are interested in the Island. Further details are to be found at: <http://www.southgeorgiaassociation.org>



President: David Tatham

Chairman: David Drewry

Secretary: Fran Prince

**Tony Martin on South Georgia**