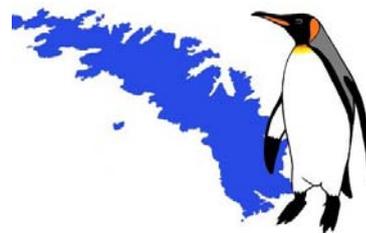


South Georgia Association Newsletter

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King Edward Point at night with Mount Paget in the background.

The Spring Meeting & AGM will be on Saturday April 13, 2019 at 4:00 pm

The Seventeenth Annual General Meeting, 20 April 2018

Held at the Royal Over-Seas League, London

The meeting was attended by 54 members and guests, including the following members of the Committee:

David Tatham (President), David Drewry (Chair), John Owen (Treasurer), John Mills (Membership Secretary), Robert Burton (Newsletter Editor), Paul Rodhouse (Events), Bill Block (Initiative Funding), Alexandra Shackleton, Bob Headland, David Rootes and Fran Prince (Secretary).

David Drewry welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially James Jansen, the Chief Executive Officer of GSGSSI; Jane Rumble, Head of Polar Regions Dept, FCO; Dame Jane Francis, Director, BAS; Philippa Foster Back, Chairman of SGHT; Alison Neil CEO SGHT; and two former Commissioners, David Tatham and Richard Ralph.

Apologies were received from 12 members, including committee members Sarah Greenwood, Ron Lewis-Smith. Apologies were also received from the Commissioner, Nigel Phillips.

The minutes of the Sixteenth AGM held on 18 April 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting (proposed by Bob Headland and seconded by Alexandra Shackleton) and were signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising that were not covered in other Agenda items.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Morag Husband Campbell Medal

The Chairman welcomed all SGA friends and colleagues to the Spring meeting and AGM, and introduced the Morag Husband Campbell Medal. This had been made possible by a generous legacy, and would be awarded for conspicuous contributions to South Georgia in various ways. Fatorrini had been commissioned to strike a 60mm Sterling silver relief medal following a competition for the design. The design chosen depicted Captain Cook's vessel *Resolution* at Possession Bay, 1775. The first medal was delivered this afternoon at 2.25 pm! A nomination process was followed, and the Association was delighted to announce Robert Burton as the first recipient.

The SGA President David Tatham duly awarded the first Morag Husband Campbell medal to Robert Burton. Robert replied that it was an honour to be the first recipient, and gave a brief resume of his long association with South Georgia.



Bob receiving the Morag Husband Campbell Medal

SGA events over the last year

- a) The AGM 2017 had been attended by over 50 people, and the talk was given by Dr David Vaughan, Director of Science, BAS.
- b) A conference on New and Future Science at South Georgia was held in November at the new Aurora Conference Centre, BAS. Dame Jane Francis also attended and was thanked for allowing the new facilities to be used by SGA. There were 10 talks all well pitched to the SG-informed audience; followed by dinner in the Icebreaker at BAS. Paul Rodhouse was thanked for organising this successful event.
- c) The GSGSSI Stakeholder meeting in September was attended by four SGA members who were able to comment and contribute to the meeting.
- d) SGA will continue to contribute to GSGSSI consultations as they arrive.
- e) The SGA Newsletters continue to be published, with no lack of information. Please send further material of interest to Robert Burton. Robert will be handing over the Newsletter to a new editor during this year.
- f) Initiative Funding - There have been few applications, though SGA is pleased to have provided funding to Madeleine Brasier who participated in the Homeward Bound expedition to Antarctica and the Weddell Sea. She also presented at the SGA conference at the Natural History Museum in 2016. It is hoped she will talk to SGA about the expedition. Bill Block was thanked for running the Initiative Fund.
- g) Communications - The SGA Facebook page is proving popular, and Sarah Greenwood was thanked for doing a great job with this. SGA is still looking for a new manager for the website.

Future Events

1. A summer barbecue will take place on HQS Wellington on 7 June.
2. A joint event with Friends of Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge is being planned for 10 November 2018 with talks and lunch.
3. Spring Meeting and AGM 2019. It had been suggested to hold this on a Saturday afternoon. The meeting was asked for a show of hands; about half were in favour of this.
4. The committee was thanked for their work with SGA.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Owen, the Treasurer, summarised the SGA finances for the meeting: there is currently £30,000 in the account, including the MHC legacy. Members' subscriptions cover the costs of the two newsletters and the AGM; and costs of events tend to break even. SGA is looking for a new auditor to take over from Keith Holmes.



David Drewry delivering the Chairman's report

UPDATE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH GEORGIA & THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

James Jansen read the message from the Commissioner Nigel Phillips (see page 5). James also reported on GSGSSI activities as follows:

There is a focus on environmental management. GSGSSI has worked closely with SGHT and congratulate them on the habitat restoration project. Biosecurity is now a priority, and GSGSSI has worked with Biosecurity Advisers who have now declared all vessels currently rodent free (*Protector*, *Clyde*, BAS ships, cruise ships, yachts). It is hoped that the Falkland Islands Government will give clearance for using rodent-detector dogs in the Falklands.

Steve Brown, the new Operations Manager is now in post, and present at this meeting. There is also a new Visitor Management Officer in position, Ross James. Around 10,000 cruise ship visitors arrived this season and GSGSSI will monitor the impact. There is currently a consultation on conservation monitoring to recognise Terrestrial Protected Areas; and collaboration with BAS and RSPB working on longline fishing vessels on the high seas, outside South Georgia waters.

There is a 5-year review of the fishery. A four-year licensing regime for toothfish will now replace the annual licence. A Cultural Heritage Management Strategy was published in December, and a Conservation Management Plan for Grytviken commissioned and will be undertaken by *Purvell*. Work has been completed on the church windows, library and vestibule at Grytviken; work on the Main Store roof, and work and restocking of the huts is underway.

This will be James last time here, as he is leaving GSGSSI in July. He wished SGA all the best for the future. James then took questions from the floor:

Stuart Lawrence asked about the new Discovery 100 science programme, operating independently from BAS.

JJ: This is a private proposal put together by SAERI (South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute) for a science programme on South Georgia to collect data for scientific research, climate change and use of heritage. This is being put to a private funder, and GSGSSI await further information.

Tom Lynch asked if there was news of the complaint from a FI fishery that has not been given a licence for the new 4-year fishery licencing regime that has gone to official review?

JJ: The fishery licencing remains a competitive and transparent process. The licencing process had remained the same.

Sally Poncet congratulated GSGSSI on the reindeer removal, and the rat eradication. Great progress has been seen on South Georgia over the last few years.

James Jansen was thanked for bringing the Commissioner's message to the meeting and for the GSGSSI update. SGA values their contribution.

REPORT FROM SOUTH GEORGIA HERITAGE TRUST

Alison Neil, CEO of SGHT congratulated Robert Burton on receiving the MHC medal and thanked James Jansen for providing an update from GSGSSI.

SGHT and GSGSSI have a good working relationship through the Habitat Restoration Project. The Phase 3 monitoring has now been completed and a public announcement will be made on 8 May. Thanks were given to SGA for support and donations, and the publicity given in the SGA newsletters.

Now there is concentration on biosecurity, and SGHT are pleased to see the trial of rodent detector dogs in the Falklands. SGHT would like to help with monitoring the recovery of wildlife post-rat, and to support GPS to monitor the recovery of prions and petrels, that take longer to repopulate than pintails and pipits.

There is now interest in conservation of cultural and industrial heritage. It is suggested the best way to preserve a building is to 'repurpose' it (e.g. Discovery House, now a laboratory). The focus at Grytviken will be to open up the Main Store to show how whalers worked. SGHT will also be supporting the Sealing Archaeological project 2019 with Robert Burton, and will also be linked to the Discovery 100 project looking at sustainable fishing and climate change. SGHT will continue to work closely with SGA. Following her presentation, Alison took questions from the floor

Lyle Craigie-Halkett questioned the plans for *Dias*. After various proposals to bring *Dias/Viola* back to Hull, he considered it should stay in place at Grytviken.

Alison Neil: The SGHT remit is to deal with heritage of South Georgia on South Georgia. At present they are looking at preserving *Petrel* and *Albatros*, and do not yet know about *Dias*. They do not have enough funding to preserve 3 vessels. If the Viola Trust continues plans to return *Dias*, SGHT will assist, but their priority at this time is to *Albatros* and *Petrel*.

David Drewry thanked Alison for her report; and thanked all the committee for their work with SGA.



Alison Neil presenting the report from the SGHT.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Committee stood aside for the President of the Association, David Tatham, to take the Chair. David thanked members for attending and to the committee, and paid tribute to David Drewry for his vision and terrific work for SGA for which we are all grateful. The re-election of the committee was proposed by Keith Holmes and seconded by Stuart Lawrence. The meeting voted in favour of all to be re-elected.

Chairman:	David Drewry
Secretary:	Fran Prince
Treasurer:	John Owen
Membership Secretary:	John Mills
Newsletter editor:	Bob Burton
Events:	Paul Rodhouse
Initiative Funding:	Bill Block
Members:	Bob Headland, Sarah Greenwood, Dave Fletcher, David Rootes, Alexandra Shackleton, Ron Lewis- Smith
Corresponding Members:	Jan Cheek (Stanley), Sarah Lurcock (KEP)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm and was followed by a lecture by Dr Mark Brandon, Reader in Polar Oceanography at the Open University on "Giant Icebergs and South Georgia"

Fran Prince, Secretary, 28 April 2018

South Georgia Declared Rodent Free

On May 9th the South Georgia Heritage Trust announced that, following the Habitat Restoration project, the island of South Georgia is now free of rodents. The announcement followed an intensive monitoring survey, searching for any signs of surviving rats using a combination of detection methods. Over 4,600 inert devices, including chewsticks and tracking tunnels, were deployed and checked as part of the survey. The very best rodent detection experts were also brought in including three highly trained 'sniffer' dogs and their handlers.

Invasive mice and rats arrived on South Georgia as stowaways on sealing and whaling vessels from the late 18th century onwards and preyed on ground-nesting and burrowing birds. The introduced rodents have had a devastating effect on these birds, which evolved in the absence of natural predators and were becoming increasingly confined to rodent-free small offshore islands. In particular, the rodents have threatened the existence of two endemic species: the South Georgia pipit and South Georgia pintail.

From SGHT Press Release.



One of the SGHT helicopters operating in South Georgia

Message to the South Georgia Association from Commissioner, HE Nigel Phillips

Last month I made my first visit to South Georgia. It is beyond question one of the most remarkable places I have ever visited. The need to ensure that the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands strive to deliver world-class policy was axiomatic. It is also right that the United Kingdom's Government hold us to such a benchmark. As daunting as the challenge may be, I am truly encouraged by the quality of the small team that are the Government; they entirely understand the global significance of this UK Overseas Territory and the imperative that it be properly safeguarded.



I saw first hand the work of the Government, British Antarctic Survey and the South Georgia Heritage Trust. The management of cruise-ship visitors and implementation of biosecurity protocols. The scientific research that underpins our sustainable fisheries and environmental management. And I saw the discernible outcome of the hugely ambitious habitat restoration programme. The profundity of life, increasingly free of human intervention, is perhaps one of the most striking aspects of South Georgia.

We need to celebrate and effectively promote our shared successes. I am well aware of the wider network of partners and stakeholders that provide an invaluable input to our task as Government. The South Georgia Association is an important part of this network, not least as it brings together many interests with extensive experience of this UK Overseas Territory. I welcome and encourage your continuing engagement.

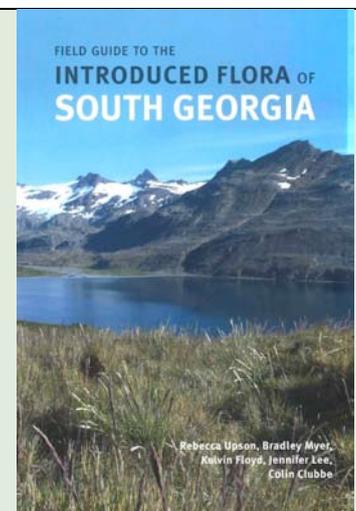
There will be much to keep us occupied in the years ahead – my recent discussions at South Georgia confirmed the range of future challenges to which we will need to respond. These include increasing visitor numbers, mitigating against the effects of climate change, and decisions about future management of cultural heritage. I am conscious that in some instances stakeholders will wish to develop and come forward with their own proposals for substantive projects such as “Discovery 100”. A combined science and heritage project in respect of which the Government expects to receive further details from the project proponents in the coming months.

The South Georgia Association and other partners have an important role in helping us shape our response on these issues and building consensus on how best we manage this globally significant jewel of the southern ocean. I look forward to discussing these with you and wish you all a successful meeting and year ahead.

Nigel Phillips CBE

New field guide to South Georgia's non-native plants

A *Field Guide to the Introduced Flora of South Georgia*, by Rebecca Upson, Bradley Myer, Kelvin Floyd, Jennifer Lee and Colin Clubbe, is an excellent booklet that will enable scientists and visitors to identify non-native plants and contribute to knowledge of the distribution of these species. The book is an output from a Darwin Plus funded project “Strategic management of invasive alien plants on South Georgia”. Non-native species have been introduced to South Georgia since the first sealers came to the island in the late eighteenth century. There are now 41 established non-native species, many of which threaten the native species and habitats of the island. The guide provides full colour photographs; species descriptions and distribution maps and will be a great addition to your South Georgia collection.



Blue Belt Programme exploring South Georgia deep-water habitats by Rui Vieira

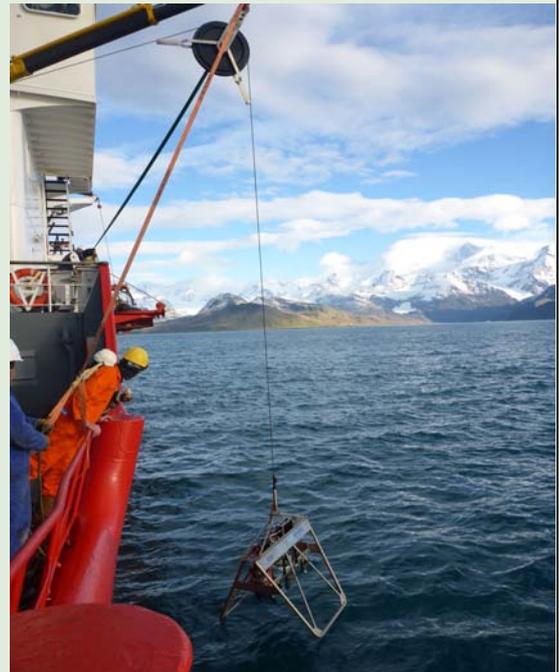
The Blue Belt Programme is a four-year programme (2016 to 2020), delivered by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) with the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The Blue Belt Programme is supporting the South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands Government to establish biodiversity baseline information and data for monitoring of the marine environment. In April 2018, Cefas scientists, working with partners from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), set off the MV *Pharos SG* on a mission to obtain high-resolution imagery to better understand the biodiversity of the South Georgia marine environment and to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the potential impact of longline fishing gears on marine habitats and fauna.

The Blue Belt survey began in the Falkland Islands and lasted 18 days at sea, including 9 days collecting baseline data on the benthic ecosystems of the South Georgia waters. A trial in the sheltered Cumberland Bay was conducted as a test deployment to familiarise the crew and scientific team with working together and using the camera system to achieve the optimum picture and video quality. The vessel then sailed to commence the deep-water camera operations at a range of depths and habitats, including within two of the Benthic Closed Areas (BCAs), which form part of the Marine Protected Area. The BCAs are areas that are closed to commercial fishing to protect benthic species.

After a short stop at King Edward Point, the MV *Pharos SG* sailed to Stromness Bay where two survey stations were deployed, one in the bay and one on a moraine ridge at the entrance to the bay, and then left South Georgia for the return transit to Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Preliminary results from the deep-water camera imagery indicate over 260 species / types from 10 known phyla, but some highlights include large aggregations of sea lilies (crinoids) and brittlestars, but also several other species, such as the cold-water sea star, and very large sponges, some with very complex architectures.



The deep-water camera being deployed from Pharos SG

Cefas scientists continue analysing the deep-water camera images, which will be used to support the next research survey, give insights on the biodiversity in deep benthic regions, and to assess any impacts of fishing. These results are important to support the long-term protection of South Georgia's marine ecosystems. Further work is planned in February 2019 on RRS *Discovery* to investigate the benthic fauna of the South Sandwich Islands.



Photographs taken with the Cefas benthic camera system: L-R: sea lilies; two different star fish; a marbled rock cod.

The Missing Base Photograph
By Pat Lurcock, May 2018

There is a long-standing tradition of Fids recording their history by leaving a gallery of base photographs, depicting the wintering teams, on the bases. King Edward Point at South Georgia is no exception and this tradition has continued ever since BAS moved in to Shackleton House in 1969 under Ricky Chinn.

Following the Argentine invasion in 1982, a military garrison replaced the BAS team for nearly twenty years and the army groups continued by populating the wooden walls with larger garrison photographs. There were quite lot of these as they tended to rotate every four months or so.

In 2001, peace broke out, the army left, and BAS returned to manage a specially built new base for the Government of South Georgia. The tradition of putting up a base photograph at the end of every winter continued and the old BAS base photographs were installed in the dining room of the newly built Everson House.



The complete set of base photos on the wall in Everson House (photo Matt Phillips)

There was, however, a gap. The 1973 wintering team was not represented. A few enquiries over the years amongst BAS stalwarts that had been around at the time failed to locate one.

In 2016 I was corresponding with Howard Platt and he mentioned that he had been on the base at the time in question. I asked if he had a base photograph and indeed he did. He scanned and emailed it to me on South Georgia, where I worked as the government representative on the island. I printed it and made a frame in the style of the others of the era and presented it to the BAS team to put up. So now the set of BAS winter team portraits is complete.



Howard Platt next to his 1973 picture in the Everson House dining room in 2018

In January 2018 Howard returned to South Georgia on the expedition cruise ship *Plancius* and was able to visit his photograph. He also took the opportunity to visit the bar, which also has some memories from the previous Shackleton House bar – the copper bar top and some historic lamps amongst others.

When the army left in 2001, the army portraits were carefully taken into the care of the South Georgia Museum at Grytviken, where they are preserved as historic artefacts, along with a selection of other memorabilia from Shackleton House. A representative couple of pictures – the first and last garrisons – have recently joined the BAS ones in the BAS canteen in Larsen House.



The Base Photo from 1973

Morag Husband Campbell

By Bob Burton

In 2015, the SGA Committee received word that the late Morag Husband Campbell had left us a legacy of £10,000. Unfortunately, her will left no indication why this generous gift had been made and how the money should be spent. All we could find out was that she had worked as a nurse in Fife and we presumed that, at the least, she must have visited South Georgia aboard a cruise ship and had been immensely impressed by what she witnessed.

Without any guidelines, the Committee discussed several suggestions for using the legacy in a way that would benefit South Georgia. Eventually, it was decided to institute the Morag Husband Campbell Medal. Then, in July of this year, we received an email from Sheila Westwater, a friend of Morag's and also one of her executors. She had that day learned about the medal and said that Morag 'would have LOVED the idea of this medal. She was an amazing lady with such a love for life and learning and you could not have paid a more fitting tribute to her than this.'

Sheila was able to provide more details of Morag's life: 'She did her nursing training at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, then was a Theatre Sister in Glasgow and in Aberdeen, really pioneering that role. Latterly she worked in the personnel department at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. She never married and was a keen traveller all her life. After she retired to St Andrews her travels continued all over the world and I met her first in 1998 on a small Russian ship - the *Professor Molchanov* - on a cruise to South Greenland. We made several other trips together - to Baffin island, Alaska and in 2014, what was to be her last voyage, at the age of 86, all the way up the River Lena through Siberia, to Tiksi on the Arctic Ocean. Wherever she went she was always interested in meeting the local people and learning about their lives. She had many interests and embarked on everything with great enthusiasm. She was a great needlewoman, interested in music, nature, history, art, genealogy - she researched her own family tree, had her DNA analysed and was delighted to find that she was descended from the Nenets of Siberia. She took photographs on her travels and would happily clamber up into her loft to give slide-shows on her latest adventures. She stayed in touch all her life with many of her nursing colleagues and made friends wherever she went. She was a longstanding member of the Scottish Arctic Club and herself owned a large collection of books about the Arctic and Antarctic. She loved taking visitors to see the *Discovery* in Dundee.'

It also transpired that Morag and Sheila had booked polar cruises through Arcturus Expeditions, a small travel company of which Bob Burton had been a director. This led to contacting Heiko and Angela Wolle who had also travelled with Morag and had similar memories.

Unfortunately, none of them can remember talking to Morag about South Georgia and, although Sheila has inherited Morag's holiday journals, the collection does not include one for South Georgia. So the legacy is still a mystery. While we can all imagine the island making a huge impression on Morag, it would be immensely satisfying to learn the thoughts behind her bequest.

Call for nominations for the 2019 Morag Husband Campbell medal

Nominations for the 2019 Morag Husband Campbell medal must be submitted to the SGA Secretary by December 31st. The nomination form and full details are available on the SGA website.



The Morag Husband Campbell Medal

SGA supports young Antarctic scientist on an all-female leadership initiative

Madeleine Brasier - Report for the South Georgia Association Committee

For the last 4 years I have been studying the genetic diversity, biogeography and trophic traits of marine invertebrates from the seafloor around Antarctica especially throughout West Antarctica. During this time, I was fortunate to visit Antarctica with the British Antarctic Survey to undertake studies of the South Orkney Islands Marine Protected Area and to visit South Georgia. Subsequently I was able to share some of the results of this incredible expedition with the SGA at their 2016 meeting at the Natural History Museum, a partner in my PhD project. As I am sure many SGA members can relate to, my time in Antarctica was very special to me, working in the remote wilderness and observing some of the most incredible wildlife on the planet.



In the final year of my PhD I was offered a place on the 2018 Homeward Bound ship-board expedition to Antarctica on the MV *Ushuaia*. Homeward Bound is an all-female leadership initiative which each year takes on c. 80 participants to train them in leadership, science communication and strategy. The training takes place over the course of 12 months and culminates with a 3-week expedition to Antarctica.

The Homeward Bound initiative was founded by leadership professionals and Antarctic scientists from Australia and aims to raise awareness of the gender gap in science as well as global problems such as climate change. Antarctica was chosen as the backdrop of Homeward Bound because of its isolation and vulnerability. Training in this environment, removed from everyday life and communications and where the impact of climate change is so visible, underlines the growing need for international collaboration to help future generations live more sustainably. During the expedition in February/March 2018 we visited four different research stations: Carlini (Argentina), Great Wall (China), Palmer (USA) and Rothera (UK) as well as sites of historical interest maintained by the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust including Port Lockroy, Base Y (Horseshoe Island) and other locations of biological interest.

Being able to visit so many different locations within Antarctica is quite rare. Having studied marine biology mostly from ships, to see Antarctic science in action at different research stations and learn more about operations in the field was one of the important features of the trip for me. At all the bases we visited there was a feeling of community and leadership from within. When living and working in extreme and isolated environments, it is essential that safety and well-being are a top priority resulting in a very productive working environment. These insights will feed back into my ongoing outreach work with UK schools, helping to inspire young people into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects. In the build-up to my expedition I visited 20 UK schools and intend to remain in an active outreach role as I continue my scientific career.



Watching a minke whale from the deck of MV Ushuaia (photo Oli Sansom)

During the expedition we participated in lectures and seminars on topics as diverse as the science of Antarctic biology and ecology all the way to how to build a visibility and media profile. I participated in leadership diagnostics in order to learn more about myself and how my thoughts, feelings and behaviours influence the way I work and lead. And perhaps most importantly, I had the opportunity to network, establish contacts and discuss potential collaborations with 80 incredible women within the STEM workforce from all around the world. This unique opportunity allowed me to gain insight into many different scientific disciplines including conservation, policy, education and sustainable technologies. This was an extremely important and rewarding experience for myself and my fellow participants, but the hope is that the impact of the Homeward Bound program will not stop with us.



Madeleine at the British Antarctic Survey base at Rothera.

Whilst aboard we explored how we could both create change on an individual level (e.g. within the workplace, local community events) as well as work as a community to identify issues and present solutions to the wider STEM community (e.g. international press, conferences, targeting policy makers and leaders within our fields of research). Since returning home, working groups within the 2018 cohort have been planning initiatives to help address the significant gender gap in science, reduce our impact on the planet and raise public awareness of the science around climate change. By equipping 1000 women over 10 years with the necessary skills and information to address these global issues, Homeward Bound aims to find creative and novel solutions as well as build a global network of women in leadership to create change at a population and systemic level.

To date, Homeward Bound has seen two cohorts travel to Antarctica as part of a 10-year project, and with each cohort the program content and expedition adapts and evolves based on participant experience and feedback. Our group was given multiple opportunities to give feedback on progress and specific issues and significant efforts were made to ensure participants felt supported and safe throughout the experience. This is expressed in a collective letter by the 2018 cohort which states *“Overall, our experience aboard the ship was positive.... we enjoyed an extraordinary few weeks on board the ship as a collective, where people had equal voices, where difficult conversations were conducted with respect and trust, and where we all had significant learning experiences. We felt physically safe and emotionally supported during our trip to Antarctica.”*



The Homeward Bound team line up on the deck of MV Ushuaia (photo Oli Sansom)

As I progress in my postdoctoral career, I plan to pursue my interests in conservation, management and research within the Antarctic region. I believe that the skills, connections and experiences gained from Homeward Bound are essential in helping to provide me with the confidence and professional abilities to move into new roles and positions. Next year I hope to return to South Georgia to study the seafloor communities within the Marine Protected Area. Such monitoring and management programmes contribute to the sustainable use of South Georgia's resources through changing conditions and fishery demands.

I would like to thank the SGA once again for their support of my Homeward Bound expedition and I look forward to sharing my experiences with SGA members at a future SGA meeting.

Madeleine Brasier, 23rd April 2018

Letter to Editor - from John Dye

Hullo Bob, many thanks for the very interesting newsletter, the piece about the Kinos took me back. (*See 'A night at the cinema - 65 years ago' by Ron Lewis-Smith. No 34.*) I must be one of a very few people to have seen films at Grytviken and Leith Harbour, although they were all Japanese films.

There was one occasion at Grytviken when the island was beset by what the Japanese called a 'typhoon'. The catchers were brought in and that night they had a film show. I had already got myself a poor reputation as the most strict Whaling Inspector ever, and a lot of people were losing bonuses because of the infractions I booked. So I was a little concerned to realise, as the lights went down, that I was surrounded by all the gunners from the catchers! The Japanese are small as a rule but the gunners had to be beefy and they were all big guys. Needless to say they behaved impeccably in the Kino.

When we stayed in Husvik, on a three week trip where I was observing the reindeer on the Busen Peninsula, we used the Husvik Kino as a base, partly because it was a good place for radio operation. Harry Clagg, a teenage American entomologist, set up his gear on the stage, which was accessible through a door cut in the screen (not cut by us, I emphasise). I recall the ceiling being skilfully painted with scenes of catchers and stormy seas.

I was only in Stromness once and I can't recall the Kino, although I think I probably looked in. Incidentally, I think the picture of the gunner on the front page was taken at a whaling station: it is calm and there are cape pigeons around the ship. (Yes. It was taken at Grytviken. Ed.)

Regards, John

New Migratory Species stamp issue

South Georgia has recently issued a new set of stamps featuring humpback and blue whales and highlight the migrations between feeding grounds in South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands and breeding grounds further north. The stamps are in pairs with the upper stamp illustrating the breeding ground and the lower showing the feeding grounds.

This Migratory Species issue is one of a complementary suite of stamps being issued in 2018 by British Overseas Territories including Ascension Island, British Antarctic Territory, Falkland Islands and Tristan da Cunha.



New issue of South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands stamps depicting migratory whales

