South Georgia Association Newsletter

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Playful young elephant seals in King Edward Cove

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The South Georgia Association Spring Meeting & AGM will be held at the Royal Over-Seas League, on Friday 28th April from 6 pm. Tickets available from the SGA Website. The AGM will be followed by a talk by Martin Collins entitled *Winter Surveys at South Georgia.*

Managing South Georgia's non-native plants – what has been achieved so far

Sally Poncet, Kelvin Floyd & Ken Passfield

South Georgia has 24 species of native vascular plants and 42 introduced non-native species. Three of the 42 species (annual meadow-grass, dandelion and chickweed) are so widespread that their control is not considered to be feasible, but the remaining 39 are now being managed under GSGSSI's weed control programme. An additional 34 species have been classed as 'historic' (they died out naturally before 2010), and nine have not been seen for more than 5 years since control began in 2010. With biosecurity and prevention of non-native species introductions being two of the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) top priorities for environmental protection, non-native plant management has become an essential part of Government's annual work programme.

The need for weed control was first recognised in 2003 when Sarah Lurcock (at the time postmistress and long-term resident of King Edward Point in South Georgia), realised that without some form of intervention, the recently arrived bittercress (*Cardamine glacialis*) would continue its rapid spread into nearby tussac grassland around the station at King Edward Point and beyond. An ad hoc series of control attempts began in 2004, and in 2010 GSGSSI contracted New Zealand weed control specialist, Kelvin Floyd, to review progress on bittercress control and develop a more co-ordinated programme to target 'weeds' at Grytviken.

Ken, Kelvin and Sally tackling the sorrel slopes above Grytviken

Following the South Georgia Heritage Trust's rat eradication (2011-2015) and the GSGSSI reindeer eradication (2013-2014) it became apparent that without urgent, wide-scale management of non-native plants, some species could quickly spread to the point where control was not viable. Additional resources were secured in 2014 when GSGSSI in partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and Kelvin Floyd successfully obtained funding from the UK Darwin Plus Initiative. This project's aims were to understand the distribution of non-native plants on the island, develop a management strategy and develop tools to help improve biosecurity response both on South Georgia and in other UK Overseas Territories. In order to achieve this Brad Myer was engaged as the Project Officer.

Ken, Martin Freeman & Sally on the rolling hills above Husvik whaling station in Stromness Bay

The first step was a desktop review of non-native species. Bob Headland's annotated maps of the whaling stations showing the locations of weed species were an invaluable starting point. This was supplemented by information from naturalists John Shanklin, Ron Lewis-Smith, Hector MacAllister and Jenny Scott, and from the handful of published and unpublished botanical reports (notably the Kew Gardens 2008 survey expedition undertaken as part of the South Atlantic Invasive Species Project) and British Antarctic Survey herbarium records. All this was collated by Kelvin into a database format used for querying records by locality and species to ensure all known records were identified and searched.

Fieldwork in the summers of 2014/15 and 2015/16 involved surveying the distribution and abundance of non-native plant populations and on-going non-native plant control. Field operators were Kelvin and Brad, plus a team of two recruits from the Falkland Islands, Sally Poncet and Ken Passfield, who began their training in non-native invasive plant management.

Every summer, a team of 3 to 5 field operators spends up to four months in South Georgia carrying out control and collecting geo-referenced monitoring data for plant distribution and abundance. Survey and control data are logged in the field using a bespoke mobile phone app developed by Kelvin, and archived in the GSGSSI weeds database, providing an

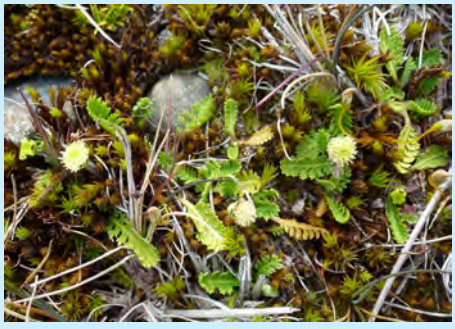
easily accessible record for long-term monitoring of all aspects of the programme. One of the keys to the success of the project has been blending the dedication and local knowledge of experienced field operators like Sally, Ken and Kelvin with new team members in order to build capacity and ensure the project is sustained in the future.

Although the primary focus of the programme is control, the work to detect new infestations at the more remote locations remains ongoing. Next summer (2023/24), a more extensive non-native and native plant survey is planned for the remotest, rarely visited areas of South Georgia. This will be carried out at the same time as the decadal GSGSSI South Georgia wandering albatross census.

Ken, Michael Lavery and Kelvin preparing for departure from Husvik Feb 2023.

Sally admiring the mountainberry slope above Leith Harbour February 2018

Ten years on, the GSGSSI non-native plant management project has removed nine 'weed' species, initiated localised ('site-led') annual control of the grasses spike trisetum, punkgrass, common bent and smooth meadow-grass, and systematic control at all known sites of all remaining 31 species, with the aim of preventing further spread and, for some species, to eradicate completely. The botanical surveys undertaken by the team have added 10 previously unrecorded non-native species to the South Georgia plant list and vastly increased our knowledge of the distribution and abundance of both native and non-native species.



*A selection of South Georgia's non-native plants. Top (L-R) Bittercress (*Cardamine glacialis*) with* Acaena *(native burnet); tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*); mountainberry (*Gaultheria cf pumila*). Lower (L-R) procumbent pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*); feathery buttonweed (*Leptinella scariosa*); berry-lobelia (*Lobelia pratiana*).*

Félix Oscar Artuso and South Georgia

Bob Headland

On 11 December 2022, more than forty years after the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, the children of Felix Artuso (5 VII 1945 - 27 IV 1982), with several colleagues and others involved with the events of April 1982, were eventually able to visit his grave at King Edward Cove, South Georgia. Artuso, an engineer of the Armada Argentina, was shot two days after the Argentine surrender of 25 April 1982, during action to move his submarine, *Santa Fé,* from the vicinity of King Edward Point. His body was interred, with military honours by the Royal Navy, in the Grytviken cemetery on 30 April.

Similar visits by relatives and others to graves of Argentine servicemen in the Falkland Islands had been long established, with cooperation of international bodies and the government, but this was the first such occurrence on South Georgia. Previous inquiries, through an intermediary, and later, through the British Ambassador in Buenos Aires, with the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Government, had indicated that there was no objection to such a visit after the time when Argentines, travelling with appropriate passports, were permitted to enter the territories. The remaining problem was logistical; with several people involved the cost of travelling aboard a tourist ship, the only practicable way to reach South Georgia, was substantial.

After negotiation, Quark Expeditions came to a favourable arrangement which permitted Artuso's three children, Cristian, his son, and daughters, Karina and Carolina, to visit their father's grave (his widow has died before their visit). They were accompanied by Daniel Cobos an officer wounded aboard ARA *Guerrico* on 3 April, and two members of the crew of the submarine *Santa Fé,* Daniel Martín with his son Lucas Martín, and Alberto Macías, who had lost a leg during the recapture of the island on 25 April. Marcelo De Bernardis, a tourist was with them. Also involved were Jake Morrison who led the voyage of *Ocean Diamond*, David Burton a SGSSI Government Officer, and Federico Gargiulo who liaised on behalf of Quark Expeditions as well as photographing the event.

Cristian, Carolina and Karina Artuso at their father's grave

The visit was an essentially civil occasion with the visitors wearing "Quark" yellow parka jackets travelling as passengers aboard *Ocean Diamond.* The grave already bore a tribute from the Argentine navy submarine service and had received floral wreaths on several occasions, but the opportunity of adding additional plaques was taken. These were unveiled beneath an Argentine flag over the grave. One was from the family indicating that their father had not been forgotten although they waited four decades to visit his grave. The other was from the *Liga Naval Argentina* honouring a former comrade from the submarine service. The Grytviken cemetery has graves and memorials from sealers from the 1800s, whalers during the 1900s and several others who met death in South Georgia including Sir Ernest Shackleton. In total there are 64 graves there, from 1843 to 1982, with ashes of others deposited in the vicinity. Although most burials are of Norwegian whalers, men from throughout the world, including other Argentines, have come to lie there. The Grytviken cemetery is well maintained, as are the others on South Georgia.

Sources for this note are colleagues on South Georgia, aboard Ocean Diamond, and a Mercopress news.

Identifying risk areas for wandering albatross

Ana Carneiro (Birdlife) & Richard Phillips (BAS)

Albatrosses are natural scavengers, attracted to dead or dying prey near the ocean's surface as well as food made available by fisheries. All too often, they are killed or injured whilst scavenging during fishing operations. The wandering albatross population at South Georgia has declined catastrophically since the 1970s due to bycatch in longline fisheries. Although seabird bycatch has been reduced to negligible levels in fisheries operating around South Georgia because of regulations introduced under the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), elsewhere in the southern hemisphere, continuing poor practices and weak or no enforcement of regulations means that bycatch is still a major threat, including for wandering albatrosses.

As part of a collaborative study between British Antarctic Survey and BirdLife International, funded by the Darwin Plus scheme, Ana Carneiro spent three months in austral summer 2019/20 tracking wandering albatrosses at Bird Island, assisted by Rosie Hall and Alex Dodds. Alex and James Crymble continued tracking the albatrosses for the rest of that breeding season and the next, with the last deployment in August 2021. The fieldwork involved attachment of two types of logging device to wanderers. The first device was attached to back feathers to record the GPS position of birds at sea and also scanned the surroundings to detect vessel-radar transmissions. In addition, tiny devices on plastic leg rings recorded saltwater immersion at high resolution, allowing the timing of every flight and landing to be determined. In total, the tracks of 251 birds of different sex and life-history stages were analysed, combining the GPS, radar and immersion data with information on the positions of fishing vessels obtained from the automatic identification system (AIS) through Global Fishing Watch.

Wandering albatross at Bird Island

The results showed that wandering albatrosses from Bird Island were particularly at risk from bycatch in fisheries when they travelled to the Patagonian Shelf break during the incubation and mid-late chick-rearing periods. The majority of birds (55%) encountered fishing vessels, and 43% showed close attendance. The vessels used different gear type and were flagged to multiple fishing nations. The decision to visit a vessel - and for how long - was affected by age, sex and status (breeder or non-breeder), which also influences the use of different areas and therefore chance of encountering fishing vessels of different gear types and fleets. The greatest overlap was with demersal longliners, particularly those from South Korea but also including the Falkland Islands, UK and Chile, and to a lesser extent, trawlers flagged to Argentina and Uruguay, and pelagic longliners flagged to Brazil, Portugal and Taiwan. These fleets vary greatly in terms of seabird bycatch rates. Now that the fleets have been identified that represent the greatest risk to wandering albatrosses from South Georgia, it is important that advocacy focuses on those particular fishing nations and the vessel operators to ensure mandatory implementation of best-practice seabird-bycatch mitigation, monitoring of compliance and of seabird bycatch rates.

Assessing the extent and impact of introduced invertebrates on the island

Pierre Tichit, Durham University

Non-native invertebrates were introduced to terrestrial South Georgia, often several decades ago during the whaling era, but little is known about their extent and abundance, nor about their impacts on native ecosystems. In parallel, the effects of climate change are already marked on South Georgia and may make it easier for introduced species to spread across - and for new non-native invertebrates to survive on the island.

To increase knowledge about South Georgia's introduced terrestrial invertebrates, we conducted an expedition between January and February 2023. This work is a collaboration between several research institutes including Durham University and SAERI (Falklands) and is funded by Darwin Plus. Our team covered 15 to 30 km daily through all terrains and weather on the Busen, Thatcher and Barff peninsulas. This enabled us to systematically survey more than 150 locations across different habitats and elevations.

Pierre Tichit searching for ground-dwelling invertebrates under a stone in Leith Harbour

Simon Browning taking field notes on a survey site near Grytviken

The native beetle Perimylops antarcticus may be severely impacted by the presence of invasive beetles.

Much of the data collected is still to be analysed. So far, we have found that the two species of invasive beetles, and in particular *Merizodus soledadinus*, have spread widely across most of the three surveyed peninsulas when compared to the previous assessment 15 years ago. This is concerning for South Georgia's terrestrial ecosystem because these beetles have known negative consequences on native invertebrates. We also discovered a previously unreported ladybird beetle on the Busen Peninsula that was likely to have been recently introduced via human activities. Again, this is not good news for local invertebrates, though the ladybirds may still be eradicable if tackled early on.

More updates and info about this science project can be found on our website: *www.conservationecology.org/sg_bio_invasion.html* and on twitter (@SG_bio_invasion).

Place names around Grytviken and King Edward Point, South Georgia

Adrian Fox and Elena Field, UK Antarctic Place-names Committee

Place names on South Georgia are a fascinating short-hand for the history of exploration, sealing and whaling and science on the island, with the earliest names dating from Cook's first charting of the island in January 1775. This article is the first of a series highlighting the place names of landmarks at the more frequently visited areas of South Georgia.

The toponyms around Grytviken and King Edward Point are mainly a mix of names from geographical exploration of the area by the Swedish Antarctic Expedition (SwAE) (1901-04) and the subsequent development of whaling at Grytviken, hydrographic charting, the Discovery Investigations and later scientific work, together with a few descriptive names.

The Grytviken area is part of the **Thatcher Peninsula,** named in 1991 after Margaret Hilda (Baroness) Thatcher (1925-2013), Prime Minister, 1979-90, including during the Argentine Navy seizure of Grytviken on 3 April 1982 and subsequent Falklands War.

Grytviken: The name Grytviken (Pot Cove) was applied to the area in 1902 by J. G. Andersson, of the SwAE after the boiling pots left by sealers, and the name was later applied to the whaling station of the Compañía Argentina de Pesca, established in 1906 and closed in 1962.

King Edward Cove and Point: The cove was recharted by Cdr M. H. Hodges, RN, of *HMS Sappho*, in 1906 and named King Edward Cove, after Edward VII (1842-1910), King of the United Kingdom, 1901-10, and the Point named in association with the Cove. **Mount Hodges** and **Sappho Point** are also on Thatcher Peninsula. **Hope Point,** the north entrance point of King Edward Cove and site of a cairn and cross in memory of Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874-1922), is named after Capt. (later Adm.) Herbert Willes Webley Hope, RN (1878-1968), who surveyed King Edward Cove from *HMS Dartmouth* in 1920.

Landmark mountains close to Grytviken include: **Brown Mountain** (330 m), mapped by the SwAE in 1902 and by August Szielasko (**Szielasko Ice Cap**, on Barff Peninsula), German medical officer on a Norwegian whaling expedition in 1906, who made geographical notes about South Georgia and named it descriptively *Braun Berg*; **Mount Duse** (510 m) was mapped in 1902 by Lieut. Samuel A. Duse, cartographer of the SwAE and named Duse-Berg after him by Nordenskjöld in 1904; **Mount Hodges** (605 m), was named after Cdr Michael Henry (later Adm. Sir Michael) Hodges, RN (1874-1951), of *HMS Sappho*, who mapped part of the area in 1906. **Hodges Bowl** and the (now completely disappeared) **Hodges Glacier** are named in association with the peak; **Narval Peak** (600 m) was named by the British South Georgia Expedition, 1954-55, possibly after the ship, *Narval*, an Argentinian whale-catcher. **Petrel Peak** (632 m), was named after the whale-catcher *Petrel*, and the snow petrels (*Pagodroma nivea*) that nest on the higher rocks, following glaciological work in the area by Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey in the IGY, 1957-58; **Orca Peak** (275 m), was probably named by the Discovery Investigations, possibly descriptively from a resemblance to the dorsal fin of the killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), **Discovery Point** is visible to the south from King Edward Point.

Section from the map of the Thatcher Peninsula (BAS, 2010; 1:25,000 scale map; BAS 25 Series Sheet A4)

Maiviken (May Cove) and the nearby lake **Maivatn** lie to the north of Grytviken and were charted and named in 1902 by the SwAE after May Day 1902, the day on which the expedition entered the cove. Maiviken is accessed from Grytviken by heading north through **Bore Valley**, named by the SwAE after Bore, being the Swedish name for Boreas, the god of the north wind. At the head of the valley is **Lewis Pass,** named after Dr Ronald Ian Lewis-Smith (b. 1942), British Antarctic Survey plant ecologist who worked extensively on South Georgia.

The Antarctic Place-names Committee advises the Commissioner of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands on matters relating to place-naming on South Georgia, and if appropriate, endorsement of place names rests with the Commissioner. More information about South Georgia place names and an online gazetteer and web-map can be found at: https://apc.antarctica.ac.uk/sgssi/

The South Georgia GIS

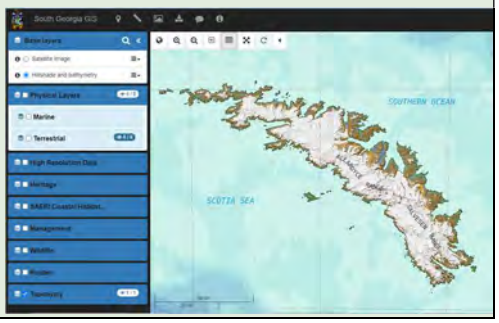
Elena Field, British Antarctic Survey

The South Georgia GIS is a collection of topographic, scientific, and management data about South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. It is hosted by British Antarctic Survey on behalf of the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI).

The GIS is freely available and is a web-based platform allowing users to visualise and download South Georgia-related data for work or general interest. Version 3 was launched in 2017 and included new topographic data for South Georgia, developed during production of the South Georgia and The Shackleton Crossing BAS map, plus high-resolution data of Thatcher Peninsula, the Busen region, Barff Peninsula and Bird Island from other published BAS maps. A recent addition is a suite of broad-scale habitat maps developed by a Darwin+ initiative, alongside a series of drone images captured as part of the research covering Elsehul, Bird Island, Jason Harbour, and many others.

BAS invites all users to be active participants in improving data quality and encourage users to get in touch with any feedback. Additionally, any new or updated data from users is welcome for potential inclusion in the South Georgia GIS. Please contact the BAS Mapping and Geographic Information Centre for more information.

South Georgia GIS can be accessed here: https://www.sggis.gov.gs/ and the BAS Mapping and Geographic Information Centre can be contacted at magic@bas.ac.uk

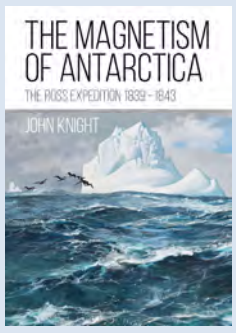


New Books Published

Three books have recently been published that may be of interest to SGA members. ***The Land Beneath the Ice: The Pioneering Years of Radar Exploration in Antarctica*** is written by SGA Chairman, David Drewry and describes the pioneering work he and fellow glaciologists undertook to measure the thickness and properties of ice from the air —transforming our understanding of the world's great ice sheets. The book captures the excitement and innovative spirit of a pioneering era in Antarctic geophysical exploration, recounting its perils and scientific challenges, and showing how its discoveries are helping us to tackle environmental challenges of global significance. Published by Princeton University Press: ISBN:9780691237916

Footsteps in the Snow by ex-BAS Deputy Director, John Dudeney, is an immersive account of the author's lifetime of challenges, achievements and death-defying moments during his career working in Antarctica.

The Magnetism of Antarctica describes the Ross Expedition (1839–1843), which was a pivotal moment in the annals of polar exploration. It consisted of two wooden sailing ships commanded by Captain James Clark Ross and Commander Francis Crozier and this fascinating book recounts their voyages and the discovery of the Ross Sea and the mighty volcanoes of Erebus and Terror.



Main Store at Grytviken Now Open to Visitors

Sarah Lurcock, SGHT

Following five years of sympathetic renovations, one of the largest and oldest of the whaling station buildings at Grytviken is now open for visitors. The project has been a collaboration between the Government of South Georgia & the Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) and the South Georgia Heritage Trust (SGHT).

The Main Store was built in the 1920s to accommodate the huge amount of equipment and stores it was necessary to have on hand to keep the factory and whaling ship fleet operating in such a remote location. It was a wooden frame construction clad in a single skin of corrugated iron. The whalers necessarily had to be resourceful, and intriguingly it was discovered that leather washers used during the original cladding of the roof were made from the skin of elephant seals. Due to the thickness of the skin, which still had hair on, taxidermist Steve Massam was able to determine that the washers had actually been made from the skin of elephant seal pups!

The station closed in the mid 1960's, and despite the 60 years since, remains full of original stores from spare parts, rivets, bolts, and metal pipes, to harpoon grenades, lifejackets and wooden crates containing electronic equipment that had never been unpacked. The building and its stores were intriguing for the few lucky enough to be allowed inside, but for the majority of visitors it was off limits as it was unlit and potentially unsafe.

The main store at Grytviken with Engineers workshop to the left

Shelves in the Main Store with original stores

Restoration work by the GSGSSI Heritage Build Team started with reroofing the huge two-storey building, and replacing the windows and any rotten timbers. The SG Museum's historic photograph collection was an important resource to help determine the original colour of the building, which has now been repainted, and to confirm that multiple doors to the rear of the building had once allowed access to the pipe racks; the doors were reinstated.

A specialist team were brought in to clean every historic item in the store. As part of this process SGHT's Curator Charlotte Yeung catalogued and photographed all the items on the shelves and helped ensure everything was put back in its original place. Modern items were removed from the store. More recently the building was rewired and lighting reinstalled. To maintain authenticity, the visible lights use period lightshades recovered from a collapsed store at Leith whaling station. Further hidden LED strip lights illuminate some of the shelves to show their contents.

Rope barriers installed using minimal fixings create a spacious area that visitors can explore, and interpretation signage helps visitors understand the significance of the store and its contents. The Main Store was first opened to visitors in January allowing them to get a feel for working life at a whaling station. The building is now operated as part of the South Georgia Museum. SGHT manage and run the museum on behalf of GSGSSI.

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Polar Medals Awarded to South Georgia Stalwarts

Steve Brown and Richard Phillips were among this year's recipients of the Polar Medal. Steve, who was GSGSSI Director of Operations until 2022 and KEP Base Commander in 2001/02, has been recognised for his outstanding and sustained personal contribution to the development, preservation and conservation of South Georgia. Richard is a seabird specialist, who has been at BAS for 22 years and has regularly undertaken fieldwork on South Georgia. Richard has contributed to initiatives to reduce seabird mortality in fisheries, particularly in respect of South Georgia's albatross.

Steve Brown – on the left

Richard Phillips – a few years ago

Groundfish survey catches Antarctic toothfish

The South Georgia Groundfish survey took place in February 2023 on the FV *Robin M Lee*. The survey, led by BAS scientist Phil Hollyman, conducted 75 trawls to investigate the abundance and biomass of commercially important fish species such as mackerel icefish and Patagonian toothfish. The survey had good catches of juvenile toothfish and reasonable catches of icefish. In addition to the common species, the survey also caught two large Antarctic toothfish – the first time that this species has been caught in the surveys. Data from the survey will be submitted to CCAMLR and GSGSSI.

Phil Hollyman (L), Simeon Hill (R) with crew of the Robin M Lee and a large Antarctic toothfish

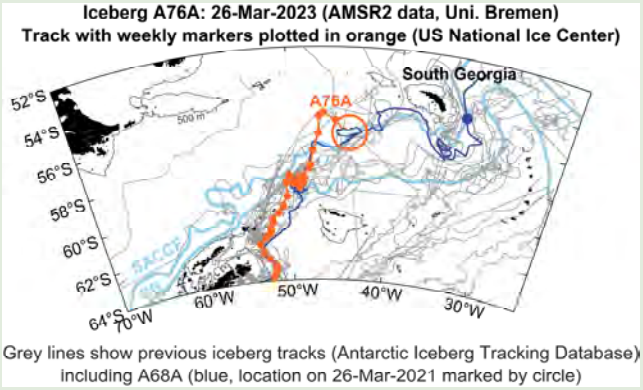
Argentine survey vessel conducts fish survey

The Argentine survey vessel, *Victor Angelescu* is currently (as of mid-March) undertaking a research survey in South Georgia waters. The survey was notified to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in accordance with CCAMLR conservation measures. The Commissioner of SGSSI issued a permit for the vessel to conduct the survey, which seeks to add to scientific data held by CCAMLR. During the course of the vessel's operations a crewman was injured and was transferred at sea to the ARA Almirante Iriza and then via helicopter to hospital in Ushuaia (see Merco Press for full story).

Argentine research vessel Victor Angelescu (from Merco Press).

Another giant iceberg heads towards South Georgia

Following in the footsteps of iceberg A68 (see Newsletter # 42), another large iceberg (A76-A) has headed north across the Scotia Sea and looks set to pass close to South Georgia. A76-A calved from the Filchner-Ronne iceshelf in the Weddell Sea in May 2021 and, at approximately 3200 km² in size, is twice the size of Greater London. If the iceberg were to reach shallow waters around South Georgia or Shag Rocks, it could have a significant impact on local wildlife.



The path of A76-A, coutesy of Dr Sally Thorpe, BAS

King Edward Point Research Station does 'parkrun' (unofficially!)

Since it's inception in London in 2004, Parkrun has become a global phenomenon, with 5K runs happening on Saturday mornings in over 20 countries. Here, Anna Carter (KEP Doctor), reports on South Georgia's (unofficial) Parkruns.

It's 8am on a windy summer's day in South Georgia- there's a rainbow, some young lenticular clouds forming over Paget, 163 fur seal pups on the track to Grytviken, and a couple of king penguins wandering down the high street. And then, disturbing the peace & quiet, a bunch of runners appear, being bold and starting cold, lining up at the KEP post office. An over-enthusiastic run director briefs the runners about the route, the multiple and significant hazards, and the importance of always keeping your under-11s within reach and your pups on a hand lead! And they're off! Down the track, through the whaling station, out along the Bore Valley track winding round tussock and boulders to the turnaround rock before charging back, ducking behind the museum and keeping up the pace all the way to the Macklin Surgery steps. Here their times are 'officially ratified' and everyone clubs together making post-parkrun coffees and brunch, before eagerly comparing their Strava stats and swapping running-based anecdotes and awaiting the email newsletter accompanying every edition of this new weekly tradition.

Runners preparing for the start outside the Cook Laboratory

Post run photo outside the Macklin Surgery

It may not be at the same time each week, or even the same day, but for a busy research base with only 10 permanent occupants, parkrun this season has brought joy, motivation, and a real sense of community spirit through running. Thirty separate people have taken part, and 115 official 'crossing the finishing line' from 22 editions of the run in as many weeks. There's been many memorable and funny moments, from impromptu snowball fights, full-on slides down the bogs, personal bests and even visiting Navy runners taking part too. Long may it continue! And thanks everyone who's joined in the most southerly (but unofficial) parkrun!

For more information about KEP unofficial parkrun please contact Anna Carter on annacarter727@gmail.com

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SGA Host Endurance-22 Event

Watercolour of Endurance by Paul Rodhouse

Three hundred and sixty-four days after the wreck of *Endurance* was located by the Endurance22 Expedition and filmed 3000m beneath the ice choked Weddell Sea, the South Georgia Association, in collaboration with the Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute, hosted an event in Cambridge to celebrate this success. Three key members of the Endurance22 Expedition were introduced by Donald Lamont, Chairman of the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust.

The expedition leader, John Shears gave an overview. Film maker, Nat Hewit, told of the challenges of filming the expedition and how schoolchildren had live internet connections with the research ship, SA Aghulus. Leader of the sub-sea search, Nico Vincent, described the incredible technological feat and showed some stunning images. The event was followed by a reception for members and guests of the South Georgia Association and the Friends of SPRI. With an audience of over 400 people this spectacular event was the largest ever hosted by SGA and Friends of SPRI.

Morag Husband Campbell Medal

The 2023 Morag Husband Campbell Medal of the SGA has been awarded to Frederik Paulsen for outstanding and sustained support for the ecological restoration, preservation of heritage and enhancement of scientific knowledge of South Georgia. It is hoped that the medal will be presented at the AGM in 2024. Recent recipients of the Morag Husband Campbell Medal (Crag Jones & Bob Headland) will be presented with their medals at the SGA AGM on April 28th 2023.

Editors' Note

Thanks to the contibutors to this edition, notably Bob Headland, Sally Poncet, Sarah Lurcock, Pierre Tichit, Ana Carneiro, Anna Carter, Elene Field and Adrian Fox. Thanks to Fran Prince for proof-reading and fact checking. The South Georgia Association newsletter is produced twice a year, in April and November. Contributions should be submitted, at least one month before publication, to the editors: Martin Collins (e-mail: only1martincollins2@gmail.com) and Adrian Fox (ajfo@exchange.nerc.ac.uk).

The remains of the Louise in King Edward Cove in winter 2022