Background

Surtored by cold Atlantic waters rich in marine life, South Georgia lies within the Southern Ocean whale sanctuary. Interconnected and mountainous, the island is famous for millions of seabirds and seals that breed on its open tussock-fringed shores and windswept cliffs. The proliferation and diversity of wildlife is breathtaking for some two hundred years man has exploited the island’s seal and, subsequently, the whales which were once abundant in South Georgia waters. The industry ceased to operate in the 1960s. Today the rusting whaling stations are a stark reminder of that past era.

In 1916-18 Shackleton famously crossed the island to alert the world to the plight of his ill-fated expedition. He subsequently died on South Georgia in 1922 and is buried in the cemetery at Grytviken.

Scientists first based themselves on the island in 1825, the waters and quit by the British Antarctic Survey, now at King Edward Point and the other at Grytviken.

In 1933 came to the island with the Argentine invasion: following the removal of the invading forces a British military garrison remained until it was withdrawn in 2001.

The South Georgia Museum at Grytviken was established in 1992 in the former whaling manager’s villa. Today the museum is managed by SGHT. It houses the exhibits that display the island’s environmental and historical heritage. The former whaling station at Grytviken forms part of the museum, and enables visitors to gain an impression of the processes and machinery used in the whaling industry.

Tourism is growing, and brings around 8,000 to 10,000 cruise ship passengers to the island each year. Many yachts and expeditions brave the island’s challenging environment every year. The South Georgia Government is responsible for managing the island and its natural resources. But Government income alone cannot possibly address the range of challenges confronting South Georgia’s unique heritage and environment.

This is why the South Georgia Heritage Trust was established in 2005.

Habitat Restoration

SGHT’ s ground-breaking project to eradicate rodents from South Georgia

In 2009 the South Georgia Heritage Trust embarked on a £7.5 million project to restore South Georgia’s natural habitat. The aim is to eradicate the damaging introduced rodent populations, thus enabling native birds to establish themselves in their traditional breeding areas. By 2009 the Trust decided to undertake the project. In 2011, 2013 and 2015 it invited international teams. Team ‘Rat’ eradicated rodent inhabited areas of the island (over 1600 km²) the largest eradication ever. In 2015-17 all rodent inhabited survey monitoring in 2017-18, and ongoing monitoring thereafter will be used to survey monitoring. By addressing the problem of invasive species, SGHT has targeted one of the main issues preoccupying conservationists throughout the world today, and in July 2017 SGHT and the University of Durham created an essential role in terms of other eradication projects on islands to share their knowledge, and to be inspired by what had recently been achieved on South Georgia and around the world.

The Trust also has a number of other achievements to its credit:

• Acquisition of a full replica of the James Caird, the boat in which Shackleton’s famous boat journey from Elephant Island to South Georgia, and the story of the whaling community.
• The establishment of a curatorial internship and artistic residency at the museum.
• The re-location of the former manager’s villa at Hukis for use by visiting scientists and expeditions.
• The preservation of painting safeguarded works by the Grytviken whaling station.
• The publication of educational literature on South Georgia, including Field Guide to South Georgia, Whaling South Georgia, The Maritime History of South Georgia and a Field Guide to the Fungi of South Georgia.
• Support for SGHT’s conservation and of this leaflet. If you can help, your donation will be appreciated enormously.

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The Trust is privileged to enjoy the Patronage of HRH The Princess Royal. Baroness Barbara Young of Old Scone, life peer and former chief executive of the Environment Agency and RSPB, and Alastair Fothergill, famous for his BBC wildlife films, are the Trust’s Honorary Presidents. An international Board of Trustees, independent of government agencies, directs the Trust. The Board includes citizens of the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, Russia and the United States. The Board seeks advice from international experts and institutions with an interest in South Georgia.

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee (Company No.466431), registered as a charity in Scotland (Charity No. SC036819), with representation on South Georgia and in Norway and an affiliation with the non-profit organisation friends of South Georgia Island (FOSGI) in the USA.

Donations
Please support South Georgia. Donation forms are available at South Georgia museum. Online donations can be made through the Trust’s website at www.sght.org/make-donation/. US citizens can make tax deductible gifts in support of South Georgia at http://www.fosgi.org/. Information on legacy donations to SGHT can also be found at www.sght.org/legacy-donations/.

You can also make a long-term commitment to protect South Georgia by becoming a Guardian of South Georgia, see www.sght.org/guardians/ or ask at the museum.

Cheques payable to “South Georgia Heritage Trust” can be sent in Sterling or US Dollars to South Georgia Heritage Trust using the form below.

South Georgia Heritage Trust Appeal (SC 018619)

I enclose a gift of £/$

I enclose a cheque to “South Georgia Heritage Trust”

Name

Address

Post/Zip Code

Email

I would like the enclosed donation to be eligible for gift aid (UK citizens only)

If you wish your donation to be used for a specific purpose, please state below:

Please send your cheque and this form to:
South Georgia Heritage Trust, Verdant Works, West Henderson’s Wynd, Dundee DD1 5BT

If you are happy to receive correspondence from SGHT by email and post, please tick this box.

South Georgia Heritage Trust

1. FLENSING PLAN
   - a. rotating cutter
   - b. pressure cookers
   - c. meat extract plant
   - d. boilers

2. BLUBBER COOKERY
   - a. meat loft
   - b. Kvaerner & Hartmann cookers
   - c. Rose-Down plant
   - d. bone cookery

3. MEAT PLANT
   - a. separator plant
   - b. glue water plant
   - c. store and laboratory
   - d. whale oil tanks
   - e. fuel oil tanks

4. CARPENTERS WORKSHOP

5. SEPARATOR PLANT
   - a. separator plant
   - b. glue water plant
   - c. store and laboratory
   - d. whale oil tanks

6. MEAL PLANT

7. SHIPS AND JETTIES
   - a. Dias
   - b. Albatros
   - c. Harpon jetty
   - d. Tijuca jetty

8. VILLA, OFFICES AND STORES
   - a. hospital
   - b. Carr maritime gallery
   - c. museum - managers villa
   - d. bakery
   - e. provisions store No2
   - f. slop chest
   - g. coffee roasting house
   - h. provisions store No3
   - i. potato store
   - j. bakery
   - k. cold store
   - l. foundation of foreman’s barrack
   - m. little villa - foreman’s barrack

9. LIVING AND SOCIAL
   - a. slaughterhouse
   - b. barracks and mess (Nybrakka)
   - c. barracks
   - d. bathhouse
   - e. barracks
   - f. barracks (Russebrakka)
   - g. ski-jump
   - h. cinema
   - i. football pitch

10. CHURCH

11. PETREL AND WORKSHOPS
   - a. floating dock
   - b. catcher provisions store
   - c. catcher rope store
   - d. paint store
   - e. main store
   - f. catcher slipway
   - g. plating workshop
   - h. engineering workshop, repair and stores
   - i. workshop

12. FREEZER PLANT AND LIVESTOCK
   - a. freezer plant & cold store
   - b. pig house
   - c. hen house

13. LOUISE AND POWER PLANT
   - a. Louise
   - b. power plant

14. CEMETERY

EXISTING BUILDINGS

REMAINS OF BUILDINGS

OIL TANKS

www.sght.org