

Devon and Cornwall Polar Society Chairman's Report 2016/17

I can report another successful and varied year of activities.

We held our usual two Society meetings at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel had a visit to the University Marine Centre at QAB and our first overseas trip! At the March meeting we were pleased to welcome our patron the Hon Alexandra Shackleton who gave a talk on her grandfather. Needless to say she slept overnight in the Shackleton room! In October, we had an impromptu Q&A session with veteran BBC personality Tony Soper. It was a delightful evening of memories of the early days of the Bristol natural history unit and he was able to tell us of his recent experiences aboard a cruise ship voyage along the NW Passage. In June Paul Coslett arranged a fascinating visit to the University Marine Centre when Matt Brown (recent base commander at Halley) showed us the work he does on training students in diving and then, with a film, explained the story of the building of Halley VI which quite astounded us all. In October Fiona Brijnathof Arcturus Travel organised a trip to the Athy Shackleton weekend in Ireland where we were able to see the newly unveiled Shackleton statue. The weekend was a wonderful experience and several vowed to return in a couple of years when the museum is remodelled to house the cabin from the *Quest* where Shackleton died in 1922.

During the course of the year the committee resolved not to establish a charitable body because of the complications of the regulations and we have resolved to mark Captain Scott's 150th birthday in Plymouth on 6 June 2018.

Membership has remained steady and we are pleased to welcome some new members from outside Devon and Cornwall. Finances remain reasonably healthy.

The committee is happy to stand for another year but we still feel some changes are needed to bring in new ideas.

Many thanks to all the committee for their hard work and support over the course of the year and to our loyal members who attended our events.

Paul Davies
23 March 2017