

Whilton Local History Society

"SHACKLETON AND THE ENDURANCE EXPEDITION"

On Friday 16th September 2016 the Society was fascinated to hear the story of "SHACKLETON AND THE ENDURANCE EXPEDITION". The illustrated talk was given by our member Tricia Wood, who is a member of the Caird Society, the Caird being the name of one of the lifeboats on the Endurance. We heard about the early life of explorer Ernest Shackleton and his determination to cross Antarctica via the South Pole. When the ship, the Endurance, was crushed in the ice, it was his experience, leadership and indomitable spirit which held the men together in almost unbearable cold, camping on sea ice with very limited resources. We heard how when the ice floe broke up he led the men to the firm, but freezing, Elephant Island, and then with a few others went on in the adapted lifeboat, James Caird, through stormy seas to South Georgia, 700 miles away. Before he could get help, he had to cross the mountainous island on foot. The fact that eventually all the men were saved was almost incredible, and Tricia's talk, given in September 2016 was just a hundred years after all were finally rescued.