

# KENT SCOUTS

# REQUEST

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1921-2021

## SCOUTS' OWN

### for SHACKLETON & SHACKLETON'S SCOUTS

**WELCOME:** *(Acknowledge any dignitaries or special guests.)*

This Scouts' Own was first held at Gilwell Park (UK Scouting HQ) at 11am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021 when a commemorative plaque to Scout's Marr & Mooney was officially unveiled. The intention is then to pass on, share and hold the Scouts' Own with fellow Scouts around the world all along the original route of *Quest's* 1921-1922 voyage exactly one hundred years after *Quest* arrived at each location. This will include the Antarctic peninsula using a facsimile of the commemorative plaque. After returning from Antarctica the REQUEST2021 team plan to hold a final reunion Scouts' Own ceremony at Fordel Firs (Scottish Scouting HQ) where a replica commemorative plaque will also be installed.


*The idea is that each boxed section be read out aloud by a different attendee or at least held up by 10 volunteers to spell out S-H-A-C-K-L-E-T-O-N. When printing pages 1-11 front pages and pages 12 -22 back pages.*

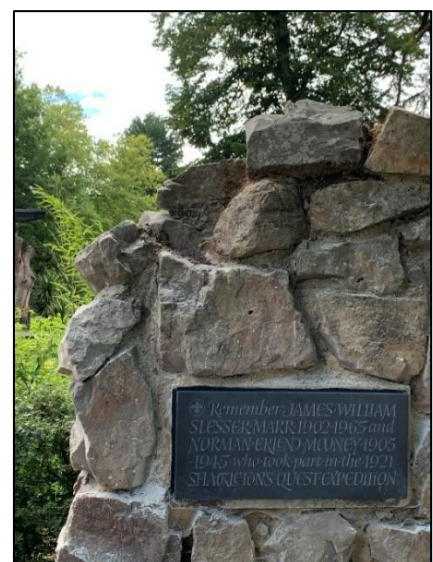


**1. Commemorative Plaques:** The inscription on the plaques reads as follows... *“Remember James William Slessor Marr 1902-1965 and Norman Erland Mooney 1905-1945 who took part in the 1921 Shackleton’s Quest Expedition.”*

Note: that the official expedition name was the Shackleton-Rowett expedition however like many of the expeditions of the heroic age it was also often referred to by the expedition’s ship, in this case *Quest*.

The larger commemorative plaque was unveiled on 5th September 2021 marking the ReQuest2021 expedition to Antarctica, 100 years after two Scouts sailed on Sir Ernest Shackleton’s final voyage of exploration. The plaque was designed by stone mason Mark Brooks from Canterbury in Kent. The smaller replica plaque will be installed at Fordel Firs (Scout HQ Scotland) by the ReQuest2021 team in 2022.

 Remember JAMES WILLIAM  
SLESSOR MARR 1902-1965 and  
NORMAN ERLAND MOONEY 1905  
-1945 who took part in the 1921  
SHACKLETON’S QUEST EXPEDITION





## 2. The Shackleton-Rowett Expedition

The Shackleton-Rowett Expedition of 1921-1922 was financed by Shackleton's friend, the businessman and philanthropist John Quiller Rowett. They had met during their schooldays at Dulwich College, London. In September 1921, the expedition sailed on the ship *Quest* with plans to survey the islands and navigation routes of the southern oceans. On 5th January 1922, upon arrival at the island of South Georgia, Sir Ernest Shackleton, who was in ill health, died on board *Quest*.



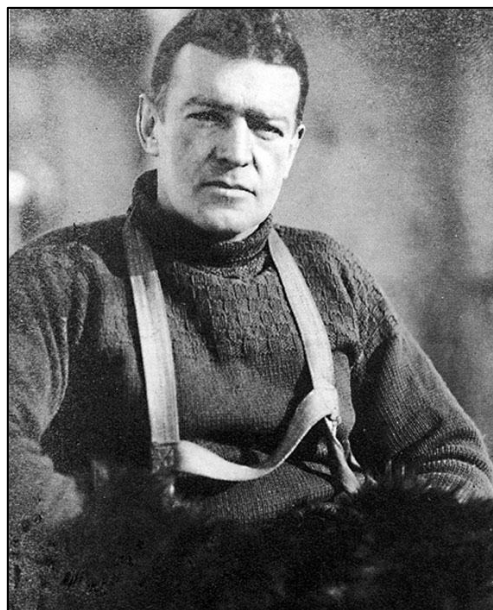
### 3. “The Boss – As I knew him.”

#### An extract from ‘The Book of the Quest’ (1929)

#### “The Boss – As I knew him.”

By Dr. Leonard Hussey, a member of Sir Ernest Shackleton’s last two expeditions.

*To have known Sir Ernest Shackleton was a privilege: but to have worked with him, shared his hardships and his adventures, and to have secured his friendship was a privilege accorded to few. I count myself very fortunate that I was one of those few. [...] He had a great admiration for the Boy Scout movement, so much so, that he took two Scouts, Marr and Mooney, with us on the last expedition on “The Quest”. [...] Sir Ernest was one of the greatest Englishmen that the world has ever seen, and we lost our best friend when he went. Still, we try to carry on as he would like us to have done, and we are never tired of talking about him and hearing of him. He is still very near to us, and in carrying on his ideals and his traditions we feel that he is attaining true immortality, and that as long as Englishmen and English boys can appreciate a true man, Shackleton’s name will be held up as an example and as an ideal. He would desire no fitter epitaph than: “He played the Game.”*



#### 4. Scouts Marr & Mooney

The Shackleton-Rowett expedition was the first polar expedition to involve scouts. Following nationwide recruitment, Scouts Norman Mooney and James Marr were selected to join the crew of *Quest*.

Mooney, from Orkney, was badly affected by seasickness and returned home from Madeira a few weeks into the voyage. Upon his return to Orkney in 1921 Mooney registered as a student engineer at the Royal College of Science & Technology in Glasgow. After graduation, he took on a role as a land surveyor with the Ordnance Survey based in Southampton. In 1929 Mooney passed the Colonial Survey examination and he was employed by the Colonial Office as a land surveyor in Nigeria mapping previously uncharted areas. On the 20th November 1945 at the age of 40 he was tragically killed when an accident occurred whilst he was out surveying.

James Marr, from Aberdeen, went on to become a marine biologist and polar explorer in his own right publishing seminal work on the natural history of Antarctic krill. In 1943 Marr was selected to lead a covert mission called Operation Tabarin. Tabarin was the predecessor of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, which later became the British Antarctic Survey. In 1954 Marr became one of only eighteen men to have received both the Bronze and Silver Polar Medals. In 1961 he was appointed president of the Antarctic Club. Marr died at the age of 62 from emphysema and bronchopneumonia on the 29th April 1965 at Milford Chest Hospital, Busbridge, Surrey after a prolonged period of illness.



## 5. ReQuest2021

The Kent Scouts ReQuest2021 Antarctic Research Project marks the centenary of the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition. A team of ten scouts from Kent and Scotland explore the waters and islands of the Antarctic during January 2022. In keeping with the spirit of the original expedition, ReQuest2021 is carrying out research projects with themes of Peace, Heritage and Environment and aims to leave a lasting legacy to inspire young people to explore the world around them.



The project itself has ten objectives shown on the back of these cards: -

- 01 **VOYAGE** – Participate as members of the crew on the Bark Europa on a voyage to Antarctica.
- 02 **PROJECTS** – Undertake personal projects with each team member presenting their results.
- 03 **CENTENARY** – Hold centenary flag ceremonies in both the UK and Antarctica.
- 04 **PLAQUES** – Unveil commemorative plaques to Scouts Marr & Mooney in England & Scotland.
- 05 **OUTREACH** – Involve young people in a series of fun and educational outreach activities.
- 06 **THAMES** – Host a pre-expedition PR event at Tower Bridge on Friday 17th September 2021.
- 07 **PLYMOUTH** – Participate in the Devon and Cornwall Polar Society centenary event in Plymouth.
- 08 **SHACKLETON** – Celebrate and pay respects to the achievements of Sir Ernest Shackleton.
- 09 **LINKS** – Build strong links with Scouts in other countries on the original expedition route.
- 10 **LEGACY** – Leave a lasting Scouting polar research legacy inspired by Scout Marr's work on Krill.



## 6. Ten to the power of three

The project can be summed up as  $10^3$  (“Ten to the power of three”)

- **10** Scouting Ambassadors (8 from Kent & two from Scotland) sailing on a tall ship to Antarctica.
- **100** years after the original Shackleton-Rowett ‘Quest’ expedition back in 1921.
- **1000s** of young people engaged & educated about the **3** key lessons of ***Peace, Environment and Heritage*** to be learned from this amazing fragile frozen Southern continent.

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**$10^3$**



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## 7. Shackleton's Last Diary Entries

*Ernest Shackleton died of heart failure in the early hours of the morning on the 5 January 1922. These last diary entries recall his thoughts as the ship approached South Georgia.*

### **1st January 1922**

Rest and calm after the storm. The year has begun kindly for us. It is curious how a certain date becomes a milestone in ones life. Christmas day in the raging gale seemed out of place I dared not venture to hope that today would be as it was.

Anxiety has been probing deeply into me for until the end of the year things have gone awry. Engines were liable: furnace cracked. Water short. Heavy gales. All that physically can go wrong but the spirit of all on board sound and good.

'There are two points in the adventure of the diver.  
One when a beggar he prepares to plunge  
One when a prince he rises with his pearl'

### **2nd January 1922**

Another wonderful day. Fine clear slight head wind but cheerful for us after these last days of stress and strain. At one p.m. we passed our fist berg. The old familiar sight aroused in me memories that the strenuous years have deadened. Blue caverns shone with sky glow snatched from heaven itself. Green spurs showed beneath the water

'and bergs mast high  
came sailing by  
as green as emerald'

Ah me: the years that have gone since in the pride of young manhood I first went forth to the fight.  
I grow old and tired but must always lead on.

### **3rd January 1922**

Another beautiful day. Fortune seems to attend us this new year but so anxious have I been when things are going well I wonder what in time difficulty will be sprung on me. All day long a light wind and clear sky was our happy position. I find a difficulty in settling down to write. I am so much on the qui vive. I pray that the furnace will hold out.

'Thankful that I can  
Be crossed and thwarted as a man'

### **4th January 1922**

At last after 16 days of turmoil and anxiety on a peaceful sunshining day we came to anchor in Grytviken. How familiar the coast seemed as we passed down. We saw with full interest the places we struggled over after the boat journey. Now we must speed all we can but the prospect is not too bright for labour is scarce. The old smell of dead whale permeates everything. It is a strange and curious place.

A wonderful evening

'In the darkening twilight I saw  
a lone star hover: gem like above the bay'



8. "Following On" – a poem by Robert Harding from 'The Book of the Quest' (1929)

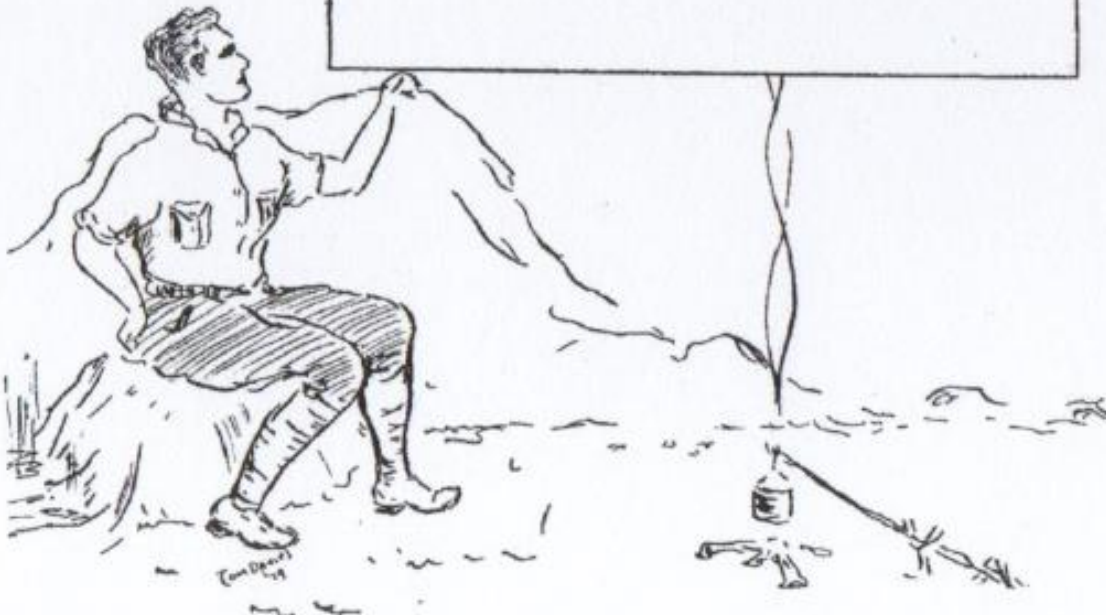
FOLLOWING ON.

"Why am I here?" A young lad, little known  
to fame,  
Refill'd his pipe and pok'd the log-fire into flame.  
Away, on the skyline, frown'd a snow-capp'd  
peak,  
Around him lay the desert, white and bleak,  
The grey gulls' screams were ominous to hear ...  
"Why am I here?"

No answer came. The cold wind moan'd  
The boom of cracking ice a sound of dread.  
In the fire's red glow his nimble fancy roam'd,  
And winged a hero's motto through his head —  
*Never, never the lost endeavour:  
Never the lower'd flag!*  
And it merged with the roar of the waters, and  
the blast from the icy crag.

| "Why am I here? ...  
"To do such work he nobly left behind,  
To tread his trail in storm and freezing wind,  
His ache to feel, and also strength of heart,  
To be like him and bear the harder part:  
To fight that polar mountain, stark and drear—  
*That's why I'm here!*"

ROBERT HARDING.



## 9. “Nothing is impossible”

### **Baden-Powell’s introduction in ‘The Book of the Quest’ (1929) “Nothing is impossible”**

*Nothing is impossible if we set our minds to it.*

*Twenty-one years ago there were twenty-five Scouts in the world. If anyone had said: "Well go on and raise two millions of them distributed in every country over the globe" one would have said: "No thank you - Impossible."*

*But the Jamboree this year will show that the Impossible has been attained, in the short space of twenty-one years.*

*In our work with the boys we can do a lot to lift the poorest and most hopeless out of their slough and give them hope and aspiration.*

*We can hold up to them the innumerable histories of self-made successful men to whom, in their early days, such a future would have seemed impossible*

*The Scout should be taught to kick the IM from the word IMpossible.*

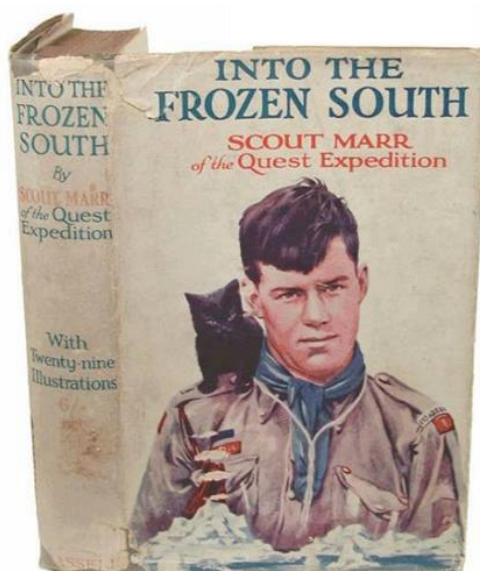


Baden-Powell with the Duke of Connaught  
opening the 3rd World Jamboree  
at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead,  
England, 1929.

## 10. Extract from 'Into The Frozen South'

Let's finish with a reading of the final words from Marr's 1923 book 'Into The Frozen South':

"And now I can hardly believe that it was all true. Yet it was true — gloriously so. I, too, have seen and known and learnt; I, too, have companioned with the great souls who help to make our island history. Sir Ernest Shackleton, Commander Frank Wild and the others, all great of heart and fearless of soul, had been my shipmates and my friends. It was a memorable year indeed, and for all time I know I must carry with me a vision of tumbling waves by day and phosphorescent breakers in the darkness; the grind and bellow of the closing pack, the rush and roar of broken waters at the growlers' feet; the hushed noises of the seals as they come to the surface in the still water of the pack; and always shall I see in mind's eye the glory of the Antarctic night. And most poignant yet inspiring of all my memories there is that of the lonely cross outlined against the whirling drive of the South Georgian sleet, the sign which remains to tell of the great spirit that led us forth and died, yet lives again, as a magnet to draw the brave away from the sleek comforts of life into that outer world of daring where men may gaze in awe upon the wonders of the Lord."



You can continue to follow the progress of the Kent Scouts ReQuest2021 Antarctica Project on...

**Website:** [www.request2021.org.uk](http://www.request2021.org.uk)

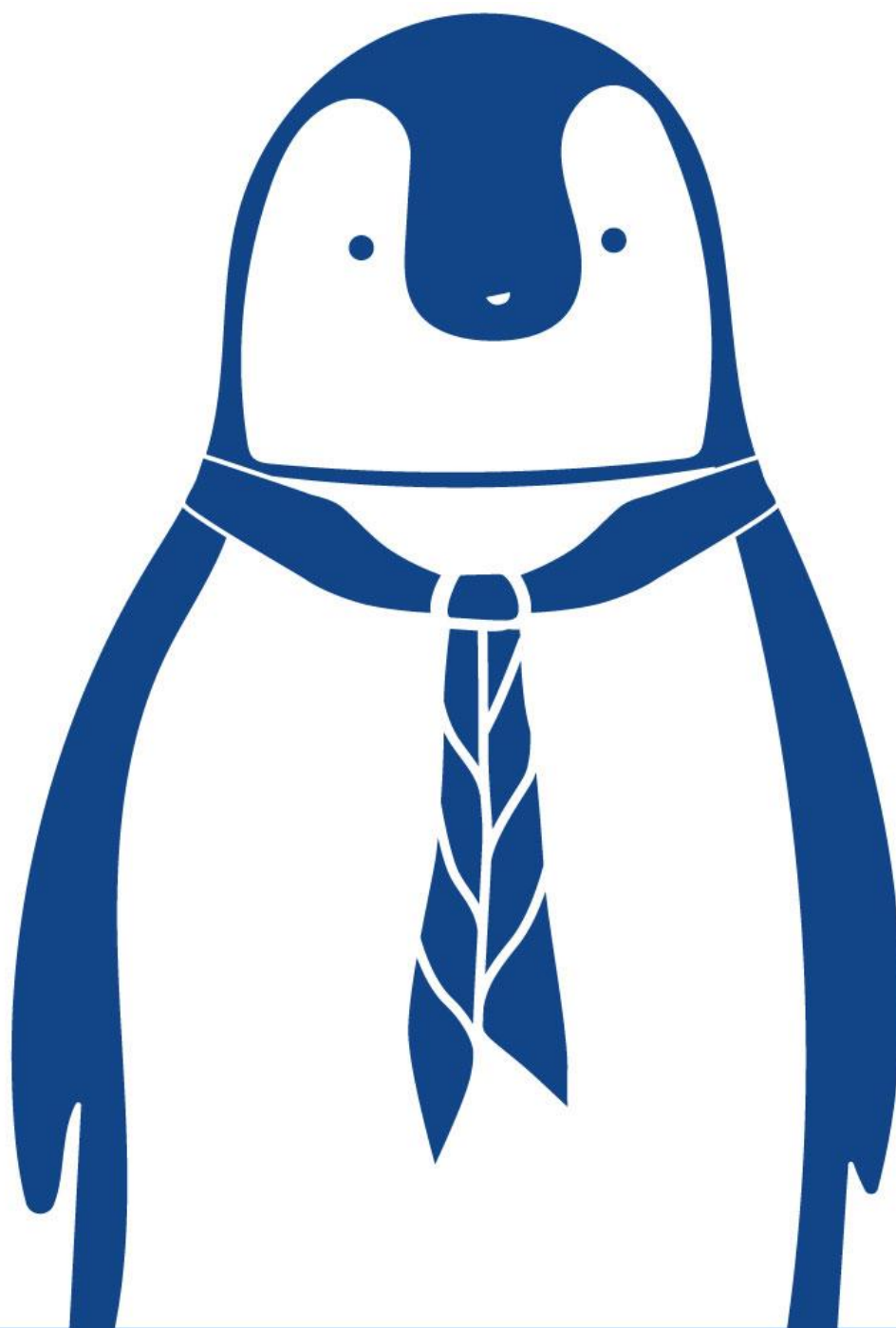
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KENT SCOUTS

RE  UEST

1921-2021



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CENTENARY

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# PLAQUES

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# OUTREACH<sup>5</sup>

# IK





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THAMES

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# PLYMOUTH<sup>7</sup>

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SHACKLETON

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# LINKS

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# LEGACY

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