



# THE MUSEUM IS OPEN

...even if the doors are closed!



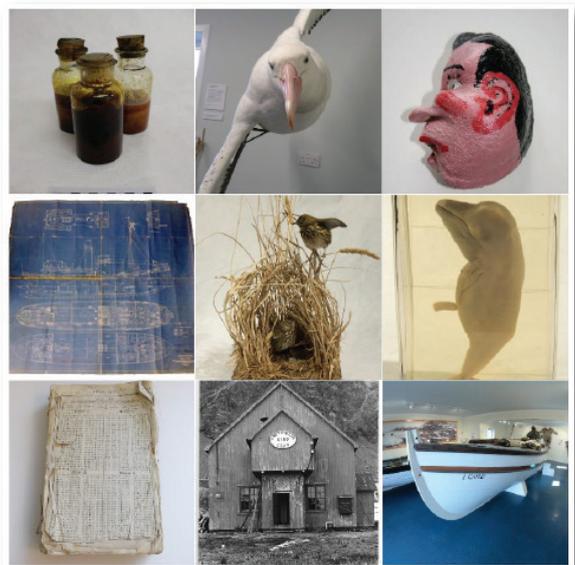
Anyone can now have an enjoyable and informative visit to the **South Georgia Museum**, so long as they have access to the internet.



Those who have had the unique experience of seeing the South Georgia Museum in person know what a treasured visit it can be. For those who have yet to discover us, we welcome you! Its location – in the middle of a mountainous icy sub-Antarctic island, which is only accessible after several days' journey by sea across reputedly the roughest ocean in the world – significantly limits the number of people who will ever reach it. And even when they get there, from the comments left in the visitors' book, we know many wish they had had more time to look around.

The Museum's inaccessibility to the majority of people has long been on the mind of Museum Director Sarah Lurcock. "We wanted to find a way to enable everyone to metaphorically 'walk through the doors and see the fantastic and wide-ranging collections," she said.

Unfortunately, no one will be able to see the museum in the coming season, due to current health restrictions. None of the buildings in the old whaling station of Grytviken, including the museum, will be allowed to open. Thanks to improved technology, however, we are excited to be able to allow everyone who is interested access to the museum.



With our recently-launched new website, visitors may step through that portal and see even more than what is on display in the museum. Our *entire* collection, including all the items that are safely wrapped and preserved within the several Object Stores, is now available to be seen through the 'Search the Collection' feature on our website, <https://sgmuseum.gs/search/>

You may enjoy several fun new features on the website. Each month, a favourite object will be chosen and written about by various people involved with the museum. There is already an archive of previous **'Objects of the Month'** building up, including some stunning glass slides by renowned naturalist Leonard Harrison Matthews.



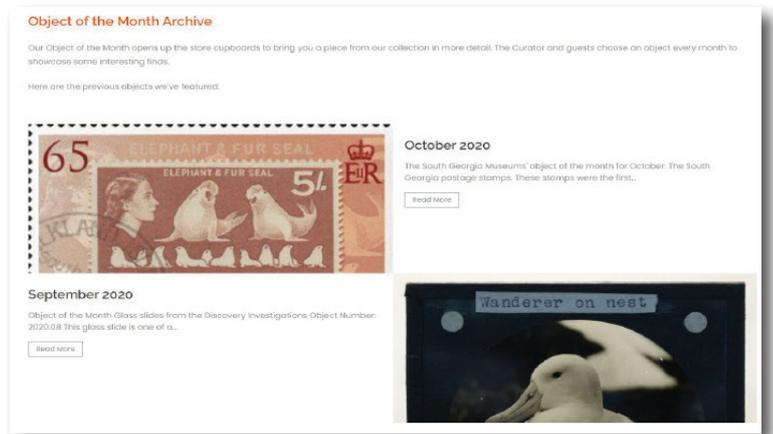
Timeline

Jayne said, "Hopefully, we have managed to make the new website eye catching to keep people exploring and reading about South Georgia. Keep watching the site for new additions. We will continue to bring you new stories and share objects from the museum and its archives. We also have ambitions to mount an online exhibition – a big challenge for our small team, but one we approach with enthusiasm."

It was appropriate that the initial public announcement of the new website was made during SGHT's on-line event.

The 'Museums in the Extreme' talks on October 9, 2020, was co-hosted with the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. More than 500 attendees from all over the world heard three talks about the challenges of running museums, looking after museum collections, and the constructed historical heritage in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic. The talks were recorded and should soon be available via the SGHT website. <http://www.sght.org/>

Meanwhile, be sure to visit the South Georgia Museum soon at [www.sgmuseum.gs](http://www.sgmuseum.gs)



The history of the island is told in the **'Timeline'**. Blogs and news from the museum team over the years have been migrated to the new site, which was no easy feat. Web Developer Marie Shafi said, "The museum blogs go back to 2007, and are historical in their own right, so making sure they were properly moved over was the highest priority." The popular Oral Histories of ex-whalers can also be easily accessed.

Curator Jayne Pierce is excited by the new website; "It gives us a great place to inform people about the museum, especially as it will be closed until September 2021. On a positive note, we now have space in which to try innovative presentations. For me, as a new member of the staff, it has been really interesting to delve into the archives to investigate images and find stories that we can slowly add to the site."

Sarah, Jayne, and Marie all agree that their favourite feature of the website is the **clickable floor map!** As Marie said, "It's fun (and contains a little surprise)." They also love the orange buttons!



**Fullerton Room**

Named after the Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, who supported and sanctioned the establishment of the museum, this room is devoted to the history of exploration and science on the island.

Visit the room page here: [Fullerton Room](#)