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**ANTARCTIC
HERITAGE
TRUST**

New Antarctic team announced to run the world's 'coolest' post office and museum alongside 2000 penguins

The successful, five-strong team includes a mountaineer, a countryside ranger and a tour operator

Cambridge 20th September 2019: The United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) is delighted to reveal the new Port Lockroy team who will live and work on the remote island of Port Lockroy off the Antarctic Peninsula during the next Austral Antarctic summer (November 2019 – March 2020).

Working in sub-zero temperatures, with no mains electricity or running water, the team, which includes two Britons, an Irishman, a Scot and a Finn, will run the world's most southerly public post office, manage Port Lockroy's living museum and monitor the resident gentoo penguin colony.

It will take this year's intrepid, Antarctic adventurers more than two weeks by plane and boat to travel the 11,000 miles to their temporary island home, which is around the size of a football pitch.

Once there, they will welcome up to 18,000 visitors to Port Lockroy throughout the season and give them an insight into life on a scientific base in Antarctica in the 1950s and 60s. These visiting explorers can buy souvenirs in the gift shop and send postcards from one of the most famous public post offices in the world. Last year's Port Lockroy team hand-cancelled more than 50,000 stamps on postcards destined for over 100 countries.

For those dedicated enough to make the trip, the island offers some of the most dramatic mountain and glacier scenery on the west side of the Antarctic Peninsula. Located at the southernmost tip of the globe and teeming with wildlife, the region experiences up to 24 hours of daylight in the summer.

Port Lockroy has been home to explorers, whalers, scientists and sailors who have made vital contributions to Antarctic history. This year's UKAHT team will make an important contribution to a long-term scientific study of the resident colony of gentoo penguins to better understand the impact of environment change on the site.

This year the core Port Lockroy team will also support the UKAHT Conservation team; highly skilled heritage professionals brought together by UKAHT to carry out a wide variety of tasks including the laser scanning of buildings and restoration work. The team consists of individuals from the Scott Polar Research Institute, British Antarctic Survey and the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust.

This year's team: *(full details can be found under Additional Information)*

- **Lucy Dorman.** Base Leader. From Oxford, now living in Cambridge, UK, Lucy is returning to Port Lockroy for her second season having spent the last twelve months as Antarctic Operations Manager for UKAHT.

- **Vicky Inglis.** Originally from Aberdeen, now living in Bedfordshire, Vicky has visited Arctic Norway, Finnish Lapland and Greenland but this will be her first time in Antarctica. Vicky will lead wildlife monitoring during the season.
- **Kit Adams.** From Northern Ireland, Kit has had three visits to the Arctic but this is his first trip to the Antarctic. Kit will take on the role of Postmaster at Port Lockroy.
- **Lauren Elliott.** Born and raised in Portsmouth, UK, this will be Lauren's first polar experience and she's excited and eager to play her part in this years' team, whilst taking responsibility for the running of the shop.
- **Heidi Ahvenainen.** Originally from Finland, this will be Heidi's second time in Antarctica and she will join the team for the second half of the season to provide additional support.

Camilla Nichol, Chief Executive, UKAHT commented: *"The team's combined experience, from mountaineering to public engagement, will stand them in good stead to live and work in this unique and challenging environment.*

"We are delighted to welcome Lucy and Heidi back for their second seasons at Port Lockroy. Their previous experience will serve them and the team well, particularly during the initial set-up phase on arrival.

"The whole team has undergone extensive training at our Cambridge headquarters, to prepare them for a variety of situations that could arise when living in one of the most remote places on Earth."

In accordance with the Antarctic Treaty and the Environmental Protocol, the team will also ensure strict guidelines on the care of the environment are adhered to by all visitors to the island.

The group will arrive at Port Lockroy in November and will send regular blog reports back to the Cambridge-based UKAHT team, documenting their experiences and giving an insight into what life is like in this most distant corner of the world.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The team's blogs will be available on the UKAHT website www.ukaht.org

The Port Lockroy team 2019/20:

- **Heidi Ahvenainen.** Heidi graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor degree in Business Administration at the University of Lapland. During and after her studies, Heidi

worked as a winter safari guide in Finnish Lapland leading husky, reindeer and snowmobile safaris. She also did two semesters abroad, first in Indonesia completing a course in South-East Asian studies and then in Italy at the University Carla Cattaneo studying international project management. She moved to Scotland in 2013 and has since studied for a MSc degree in International Marketing and worked for Scottish and Irish tour operators. She is very excited about her return to Port Lockroy and sharing the little island with the Gentoo penguins again.

- **Lucy Dorman.** Lucy is returning to Port Lockroy for her second season (she was a member of the 2016/17 Port Lockroy team). Prior to her first Antarctic season Lucy had had a varied career including 5 seasons guiding dog sled trips, 4 years working with the Canadian military and 3 summers as a Royal Mail 'postie' while at university. She returned south following the 16/17 season working on the expedition team of one of the leading Antarctic tour operators. Lucy enjoyed seeing more of Antarctica but missed island life so volunteered to spend a summer on a remote Scottish island monitoring Great and Arctic skuas. For the last 12 months, Lucy has been providing maternity leave cover for the Antarctic Operations Manager in Cambridge. Having spent a year in an office, she is excited to get back to island life!
- **Vicky Inglis.** Vicky graduated in 2003 with a BSc (Hons) in Marine Biology from the University of Stirling, and went on to complete an MSc in Ecotourism and Environmental Management at Napier University, Edinburgh. Interest the way people interact with their surroundings, and how education can influence behaviour, led her to working for wildlife conservation charities in the UK and freelance for several years, delivering environmental education, field studies, Forest School, and Duke of Edinburgh Award programmes to groups from early years children to adult learners. In 2016 she was a crew member on the Viking longship Draken Harald Harfagre for an expedition to sail across the North Atlantic from Norway to Canada. For the past three years she has worked seasonally as a countryside ranger, specialising in public engagement, while gaining experience in sail training, leading to work as a deckhand and wildlife guide on a traditional sailing vessel this summer.
- **Kit Adams.** Kit completed a BSc (Hons) in Geography in 2016, with a dissertation investigating Scottish Avalanching, which was followed by a MSc (Res) in Polar and Alpine Change, focusing on the effect of subglacial topographies on glacial ice. In the interim between these two degrees he worked in a Swiss boarding school and became involved within the Expeditions programme and the Ski department, culminating in a disabled ski touring expedition. He is a keen mountaineer and ski tourer with Scottish winter mountaineering experience and Alpine ski touring experience. He has previously had three Arctic trips to Svalbard, Greenland and Finnmark.
- **Lauren Elliott.** Lauren graduated university in 2017 with a 2.1 in Philosophy, Politics and Ethics. Whilst at university she worked for a stationary brand which enabled her to cultivate skills in areas such as customer service and visual merchandising. Lauren continued to work for the brand after graduating and went on to open several stores in the UK and Ireland and eventually became a manager. In the summer months between university years Lauren used this time to travel to different countries to explore different cultures and wildlife. In 2014, prior to university, Lauren moved to the French Alps for a winter season where she worked in a flagship hotel for a ski company and learnt how to ski.

NOTES TO EDITOR

About United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust

The United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) exists to advance the preservation, enhancement and promotion of Antarctic heritage and to engage, inform and inspire a global audience. The UKAHT is a UK based charity dedicated to promoting Antarctic heritage and

this is achieved through the care and conservation of historic buildings and artefacts and delivering and supporting a range of innovative programmes. All sale proceeds from the shop enable the UKAHT to continue their conservation and awareness programmes.

About Port Lockroy

Port Lockroy (British Base A) is situated on Goudier Island in the Antarctic Peninsula. It was the first permanent British base in Antarctica established by a secret naval operation during the Second World War. It became Britain's first wintering science station in the Antarctic and operated until its closure in 1962. After a survey of all the abandoned scientific bases in Antarctica in 1994 it was recognised for its historic significance. Port Lockroy was designated Historic Site and Monument No. 61 under the Antarctic Treaty in 1995. The buildings were restored in 1996 by a team from the British Antarctic Survey and have since been open to visitors during the Antarctic summer ever since. UKAHT took over the running of Port Lockroy in 2006. It is one of six historic sites cared for by UKAHT on the Antarctic Peninsula, and is the only one to have staff regularly based there each season.

To discover more visit www.ukaht.org