Dear all, firstly many apologies for not communicating the last 3 days. I thought that I was sending out a group email but somehow the copy list didn't work.

So we are now relying on Sarah to forward our messages to you. I hope you have them all. In theory there should be 2 emails per day - one with the agenda (our leaders plan for the day) and the other with our comments about what actually happened.

So today - after lunch we went ashore at Grytviken. At lunch the bay had been quiet and the sea flat. So ….

All togged up in our waterproof gear head to foot we got on the zodiac and headed for shore. On the way a huge gust of wind hit us. The air went white as spray engulfed us, we got wet and shortly the wind subsided and we got safely to shore.

On shore we had a guided tour of the whaling factory and surrounds by a UK lady who spends 6 months down here working in the museum and giving tours. As we went around the rusting site there were lots of baby fur seals - some on land and some playing on the water’s edge.

We went in the Post Office and sent some post cards of penguins to the grandkids. We also looked around the museum of life on S Georgia before walking along the shore to the cemetery where Shackleton and his mate Frank Wild were interred. Woody said a few words about Shackleton and we gave a toast with Whisky to Ernest - the deal was that we had to poor half the whisky on the grave for his enjoyment!

After that we walked back to the centre and took lots of photos of fur and elephant seals. Went to the church built in 1913 when the whaling got started. It seemed that the priest was the least efficient worker on the island (the workers were not interested) - so he didn't last long before being sent home to Norway. So there have been very few services at the church over the last 100 years - it was used for many social things, a library and also a potato store.

Then we walked about a mile out to the Shackleton Cross erected to commemorate him. The way was littered with fur seals and also king penguins. Even the baby fur seals seemed aggressive - they and the older ones tried to frighten us (by attacking us) as we walked along.

On the way back to the ship the weather had deteriorated quite badly. The wind had risen, it was raining and a swell was building in the bay. As we approached the ship another big gust of wind struck turning everything white with flying water. Our driver was up to the job and safely got us alongside the ship. Getting on board was exciting - but safe. You'd pay a lot of money at Disneyland for this ;-)

As we go to bed we are still anchored in the safety of the bay. The storm is now at its height for us. Strong gusty winds are making the ship lean at times and blowing up big amounts of spray. There is no swell in the bay for which we are thankful. AND this is nothing like the 8 meter high waves that are said to be outside of the bay.

Thursday depends on the weather. If it is OK at 5am then the ship will move 40 miles further south to Gold Harbour were we expect to go ashore. If not OK ….. then watch this space.

Dear all,

They haven't published this mornings agenda yet as things are still uncertain. It is 6C, still windy but with some sun and good visibility.

We left Grytviken at 5am and have sailed round to Gold Harbour where we anchored in a sheltered location at 8am. Wind is still 40mph out at sea with gusts higher than that. The sea journey was OK - even though te storm has not yet abated.

Outside our cabin window is the Bertrab Glacier which is hanging high on the cliffs. As we approached I saw a big chunk fall off the glacier and it broke up as it bumped its way down the cliff - more an avalanche than an Iceberg calving.

The beach which is 400 yards away. We can see thousands of King Penguins which will be the focus of this morning.

The first half are just going ashore for 90 minutes - we will be going at around 11am. Note - from now on there is a 100 person limit for those allowed on shore at any time. So in theory half go ashore and half cruise around in the zodiacs. However the wind is too gusty for a cruise - so that part is cancelled this morning.

After lunch we are supposted to move round to Cooper Bay for an afternoon trip ashore.

More later.

**Gold Harbour & Cooper Bay**

0800 - 0900 Breakfast is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3)

**TBA We hope to explore at Gold Harbour**

Gold Harbour lies on the southeast corner of South Georgia, at the foot of Salvesen Range, about 20 km north of Cape Vahsel. At the head of the bay is the stunning Bertrab Glacier, which hangs over vertical cliffs. Gold Harbour is home to around 25,000 breeding pairs of king penguins, which spill from the colony into the tussock and onto the beach. Gentoo penguins can also be found in smaller colonies throughout the site (approximately 300 breeding pairs in total). Elephant seals dominate the beaches while southern giant petrels constantly patrol the site for feeding opportunities.

Disembarkation: 1) Shackleton 2) Wild 3) Amundsen 4) Scott

1230 - 1330 Lunch is served in the Dinin g Room (Deck 3)

**TBA We hope to Zodiac cruise Cooper Bay**

Cooper Bay is home to South Georgia's largest chinstrap penguin colony, and also offers nesting ground for gentoo, macaroni and king penguins.

The landscape has been sculpted from rock and ice over the last 5,500 years of glacial retreat, and is now a relative oasis of greenery in comparison to the Antarctic-like scenery of nearby Cape Disappointment.

Disembarkation Order: 1) Amundsen 2) Scott 3) Shackleton 4) Wild

1830 Join the Expedition Team for a Recap & Briefing in the Main Lounge

1930 - 2100 Dinner is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3)

After Dinner - Standby for announcements regarding evening programming

Dear all, It is 6.30pm here. A great day.

The weather is improving - but the sea/swell is still interesting. Once again the Kayakers did not get afloat.

In the morning we went ashore to visit the King Penguin colony at Gold Harbour - over 50,000 penguins in total. We landed on a surf beach which was exciting as the waves were crashing in as we beached. But not a problem for our zodiac drivers - or as it turned out for us.

We were welcomed by the King Penguins and lots of fur seals. There were also elephant seals hauled up on the beach and several other types of penguins. At 50K this was a small colony of penguins - but it stretched along the beach for many hundreds of yards. We were told we'd see much bigger groups in the next few days.

Without incident we got back on board for lunch. The ship then moved 14 miles further south to get to Cooper Island and bay for our afternoon zodiac cruise. All 189 passengers were on zodiacs at the same time.

Cooper Bay is part of the mainland - with the island about 1 mile offshore - right at the bottom south east of S. Georgia. It is just north of Cape Disappointment - the place named because Captain Cook had thought he had discovered the southern continent right up to the time he found that there was open sea at the southern end of S Georgia!!

The zodiac cruise was something else ;-) Our driver Jaime (girl) took the zodiac fast across the bay in a 2m swell to a beach with lots of penguins and fur seals. She kept the zodiac away from the surf but we were always close to the breaking waves. It took a while for us to realise that she was in control and that we were not in danger. We toured along the coast stopping to look at various groups of birds/seals. The sea was teaming with them. At one point a group of 3 0 pup fur seals were tumbling together in the sea - they looked like a bucket of eels.

When we got back to the ship the swell was increasing and it proved difficult to get off the zodiac and onto the gangway. One big swell came as Peter was getting off - he stayed on the boat held firm by Jamie and two sailors on the gangway. However the zodiac twisted and came down on a sharp edge of the gangway and punctured part of one of its sides. We all got off OK - but they will need to wield the puncture repair kit overnight.

That's all for now folks ….