At 8am we were at 54.5S 41.2W, sea lumpy, wind at 35mph and poor visibility.

We are west of S Georgia and heading for the South Orkney Islands.

**At Sea to Antarctica**

"Give me this glorious ocean life, this salt-sea life, this briny, foamy life, when the

sea neighs and snorts, and you breathe the very breath that the great whales respire!

Let me roll around the globe, let me rock upon the sea; let me race and pant out my life,

with an eternal breeze astern, and an endless sea before."- Herman Melville (1819-1891)

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

09:30 Presentation: **'Penguins 101'** will be presented by our ornithologist **Liliana** in the Main Lounge

11:30 Presentation: **'Antarctica in the Imagination'** will be presented by our historian **Justine** in the Main Lounge

1230 - 1330 **Lunch** is served in the Dining Room (Deck 3)

14:00 **Ocean Diamond Cinema -** Please join us in the Main Lounge for a screening of **Shackleton's Incredible Voyage**

16:30 Presentation: **'Pinnipeds of the Peninsula - Going Deep'** will be presented by our marine biologist **Annie** in the Main Lounge

17:30 Join our photography guide **Kyle** in the Main Lounge for **Photo Critique**

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

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

Dear All

Here we are on our first day of our two day trip to the Antarctic peninsular. We all had a lie in and some even missed breakfast! It is good to chill and reflect a bit. We still had two lectures this morning on penguins - the bone structure shows their amazingly long necks underneath all that blubber and feathers, and the early thinking about the southern continent that must be there even though we haven't found it yet, and Captain Cook.

We are thinking of you all in church this morning. We met Kathy who is vicar on board, not in an official capacity, on the first day, but generally faith does not figure prominently in this cultural soup. Hope and live are very prevent however. We pray for you all today as we gaze out at the mighty ocean rising and falling that divides us.

We are keeping to the plan to sail west keeping a high latitude to allow the next storm to pass south of of us on its west east trajectory, before we turn south and race to el ephant island at the tip of the Antarctic peninsular before the next storm arrives. It should be calmer there.

We would love to hear from you in these quieter days so please do write.

With love

Ruth

Dear all,

We have spent the day at sea. The sea has remained about the same all day - still very lumpy but we are coping well and it is not a problem.

We are making good progress to the south west of S. Georgia. The storm is to our south and not impacting us (so far).

We did see some sunshine and the visibility improved so that we could see about 10 miles to the horizon. Apart from a few albatross there was nothing other than white horses and swell to observe. It brings home just how far we are from land at this point. No sign of anything else.

We spent some time on the bridge several times today. The GPS system suggests that at current course and speed we will arrive at Elephant Island around breakfast time on Tuesday. So we have another day at sea on Monday and also Monday night.

We also are changing our clocks back to GMT-3 tonight - breakfast will be an hour later tomorrow = more time in bed!

All of the lectures today were very interesting as they added to our knowledge of the birds/mammals we would be seeing in Antarctica.

The film about Shackleton was very moving and a great documentary that described his journey. First trying to cross the landmass of Antarctica via the south pole and then trying to survive all the hardships once his ship Endurance had been crushed in the ice. It included film shot on the trip, many stills and some modern footage that showed the harsh climate down here. It had interviews & comment from grandchildren of his crew. Peter recalls have a talk from one of Frank Wild's relations (who lived in east Kent) when at school in Eastry in 1960.

It was also good to get an historical perspective on what people at various times from Aristotle to Captain Cook thought about the possibility and location of a great southern land. It included many historic maps showing how people v iewed the shape and content of the world had changed over the years as explorers made successive trips into the white and windy south. One idiot, Dalrymple, thought that a huge number of poeple lived down here that he could trade with - and make more money that doing business with America ;-) Nothing realy changes = BREXIT.

Tomorrow is another day of lectures and I notice that once again we will be cleaning our gear before we can land on Antarctica.

Bye for now ….