

HMS Wager

A Talk is to be given on 29th March at 3pm at Spinnaker Club entitled 'Mayhem, Mutiny and Murder' by Shirley Critchley who took part in The Scientific Exploration Society expedition in 2006 to find the wreck of HMS Wager.



In 2006 Shirley Critchley was a member of a team led by Col. John Blashford-Snell, which set out to find the wreck of HMS Wager, which was lost in Patagonia in 1741. She will tell the extraordinary tale of their quest, covering the history, the shipwreck and the epic voyage of a few survivors.

In 1741 HMS Wager, 28 guns, was one of a small squadron engaged in The War of Jenkin's Ear. She struck rocks off the west coast of Chilean Patagonia. Mayhem and mutiny

broke out among the crew as an attempt was made to set up camp on an island .. There followed heroic efforts to escape, made more complicated by the arrest of the Captain for murder. You will hear of their fate and what became of the Captain: news which was a public sensation at the time.

Following the success of the 2006 expedition marine archaeologists continue the search for further remains and more of this dramatic story waits to be revealed.

Shirley will describe the highs and lows of taking part in such an expedition.

Copies of the recently published book The Wager Quest by Rear Admiral C.H. Layman will be on sale at the talk.

This talk is being held in aid of the Hansa Class Association UK www.hansaclub.org.uk



The Association organises the racing for disabled sailors in the Hansa Class boats throughout the country, running the Travellers' Trophy (TT) series, Grand Prix events and the UK Nationals and New Forest Sailability hosts one of the TT series each year and members of its race team compete in several of the events. The Association is funded by sponsorship and donations. There will be a collection for donations at the end of the talk.