

## STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB

### TED PARKER SPEAKER NOTES 9.9.2025

The Chairman was pleased to introduce Ted Parker to present the continuation of his talk on his journey to Greenland on a Hurtigruten cruise aboard the vessel "Fran".

Ted has previously given presentations to the Club regarding his filming of a journey from the source to the mouth of the River Tees.

The quality of Ted's slides, as expected of a professional photographer, were breathtaking and very informative showing the amazing scenery in this part of Greenland. At the end of his talk in August 2024, Ted and his wife had reached Scoresby Sound on the Eastern Coast and now sailed further North to Ittoqqortoormiit.

Ittoqqortoormiit is the most isolated town in Greenland and its neighbours include the World's largest national park to the north and the World's largest fjord system to the south. Ittoqqortoormiit's backyard is an unspoiled, pristine wilderness where wild animals thrive, millions of seabirds nest, enormous icebergs form a constantly changing sculpture gallery, and local hunters still follow the ancient traditions.

Ittoqqortoormiit is the best place in Greenland to experience the traditional Inuit style of living and where you have the highest chance/risk of meeting a polar bear.

Ittoqqortoormiit has Inuit (Eskimo) population of 350 and is cut off from the rest of Greenland for much of the year. The locals are limited to killing 3 Polar bears per year though there are limitless seals in the area.

After a delay of 24 hours due to freezing ice the ship moved up to Forster Bay Fjords and the Wattershaven Glazier which was an iridescent blue iceberg. Numerous other black icebergs were noted (the icebergs being inverted with the older ice a black colour with the impurities). Ted was able to show photographs of rock strata and the geology of the surrounding mountains as well as the amazing Flora, Fauna and rocks on the ground.

The ship is a research vessel giving daily NASA cloud reports at lunchtime to provide information for weather forecasts in the Northern Hemisphere (passengers were encouraged to view and participate). Another part of the remit of the ship was to use sonar to get a full survey of the bottom of this ever-changing glacial area.

On the last night of the cruise, during a presentation by the ship's Captain, the first 3 Polar Bears were sighted, giving rise to much interest and celebrations. The ship proceeded back to Reykjavik and the flight home.

With a few minutes left Ted briefly described a second trip to Greenland and the visit to the Ice Giants of Disko Bay on the South-Western part of the Island. He briefly mentioned the freshwater lake on top of the ice and the large Glaciers.

Following several questions, and thanks from the Chairman for a visually stunning and fascinating presentation, Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to Ted in the customary manner with a hearty round of applause.

**CG 9.9.25**