# Dr David M Wilson

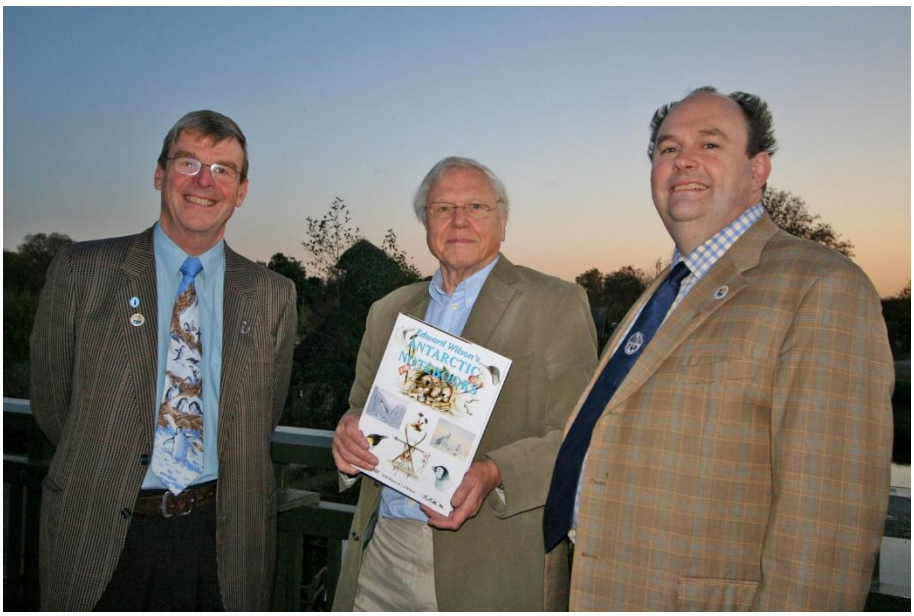
***Polar historian author and advocate for British polar heritage***




*Dr David M Wilson at the launch of The Lost Photographs of Captain Scott*

Dr David M Wilson, PhD (Essex), was born in 1963. After an early career in theatre, he studied philosophy at the United World College of the Pacific and at the Universities of York and Essex. He is also a trained counsellor, a popular lecturer on seabird ornithology and a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London. His wider interests include Aboriginal cultures, ornithology and natural history, and he actively supports several conservation organisations.

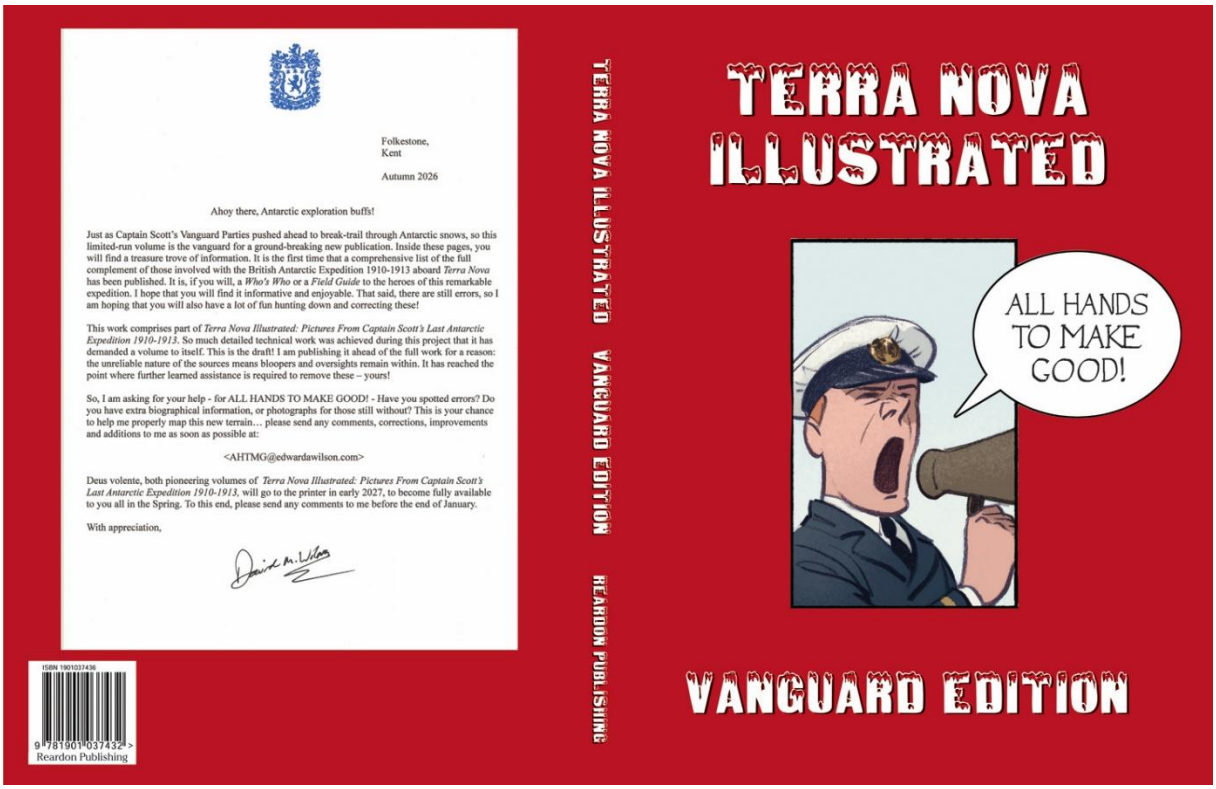
A sought-after lecturer on the history of exploration, Dr Wilson often brings a personal connection to his subjects. His great-uncle was Dr Edward Wilson, the physician, naturalist and artist who died with Captain Scott and his companions on their return from the South Pole in 1912. This family connection, combined with decades of research, has made David Wilson a respected polar historian and a leading interpreter of the visual record of Britain's Antarctic expeditions.



*With Sir David Attenborough and his late brother, Christopher Wilson, at the launch of Edward Wilson's Antarctic Notebooks*

His publications include Cheltenham in Antarctica: The Life of Edward Wilson (2000), Discovery Illustrated (2001), Edward Wilson's Nature Notebooks (2004), Nimrod Illustrated (2009), Edward Wilson's Antarctic Notebooks (2011), The Lost Photographs of Captain Scott (2011), Captain Scott's Photographs (2019) and 50 Little Duckings: The Life and Works of Michael Wilson (2022).

His latest project, Terra Nova Illustrated, reconstructs Captain Scott's last Antarctic expedition of 1910–1913 through its photographs and paintings. The research has also identified the sailors shown in the surviving images, enabling the expedition's full complement to be represented in a publication for the first time. A Vanguard Edition appeared in 2026, ahead of the complete two-volume work planned for 2027.




*Cover of the 2026 Vanguard Edition of Terra Nova Illustrated*

Dr Wilson has campaigned for British polar heritage for several decades, supporting and promoting polar collections in museums and archives around the world. He has served as Chairman of the Friends of the Scott Polar Research Institute and coordinated the national Scott Centenary Events from 2010 to 2013. He is a Patron of the Friends of The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum in Cheltenham and of the Devon and Cornwall Polar Society. Based in Folkestone, he continues to travel widely as a lecturer and researcher.