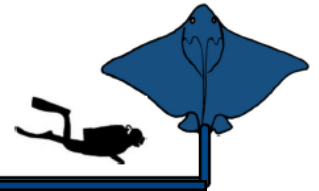


FISH TAILS

Haslemere Sub Aqua Club

Jan 2015



HSAC Open Night Free Try Dives Thurs 29 Jan 8pm

It will need **all** hands on deck on Thursday 29th January - from the newest to the oldest members - for the Club's annual Try Dive evening - everyone can do something useful - whether it's welcoming people, handing out masks and fins, getting diving kit together, or taking people down for their first underwater experience. Do help by telling friends, family and colleagues about the Try Dive evening, and put a poster up somewhere where lots of people will see it. It's useful if people can book with Michael (via the club e-mail address), but encourage anyone you know to come along the spur of the moment on the night if they like - we'll do our best to fit them in!



Club members please arrive at 7.30pm to help set everything up for people to arrive at 8pm for an introductory session and dive briefing by Nick. Any dive kit you're able to bring along for try divers to use, please do so.



St Abbs & Farne Islands 2014



See over for Yvette's full report of the main 2014 UK Club trip.

Stunning photos of stunning scenes from NE England / SE Scotland.

Diving 2014 and 2015

Plans to head off to dive the Isle of Wight in the autumn were shelved, and before we knew it, winter set in and the 2014 dive season was over.

However, Yvette launched into action immediately after the November AGM, and at the first committee meeting, before Christmas was done, she was waving around a dive plan with all the neap weekends allocated to favourite dive sites like the Mulberry, Teapot, fossil beds, Plymouth, Swanage and a few others, including the club trip to the Isles of Scilly - and already there was only a single neap left to fill.

It was agreed that the Club boats should be given a proper airing in 2015, with a full weekend away at the ever popular Portland, where the hotel is immediately on the front by the boat pound and launch site. Early booking advised!

It's proposed to start the dive season off with a shakedown dive 21st/22nd March at Chepstow, followed by a visit on 28th March to the wonderful Mulberry and Britsam. 12th April will be a trip to the Louis and Bembridge around the picturesque Isle of Wight.

See the full dive programme on the website.

SOCIAL CALENDAR 2015

To include summer barbecue, Scalextric, clay shoot, quiz and curry, pig racing, beer festival, Christmas dinner dance, and loads more.

See inside for more info

Cylinder test and kit servicing

Anyone wanting to have their cylinders tested or kit serviced in advance of the diving season, please speak to Phil who has arranged for a subsidised service for Club members, and the man comes and collects them all from us. Easy!

Diving 2014: Aug Club Trip First to St Abbs

Report and photos by Yvette:

An early start with much squashing, squeezing, pushing to get in everything into the car (thank heavens for roofboxes). Liz, Chris and I set off eagerly to the distant shores of St Abbs. As strong side-winds battered the car, conversation turned to alternatives to diving days out. However, our new skipper, Pete, had decided that the dives could go ahead (while Paul's boat had developed a problem and had to be towed off for repairs).

We met our fellow divers at the *EyeSleepOver* Hotel, arranged by Chris, and then walked to the *Oblis* in town which served a decent meal and a few drinks: all was well in the world.

An early start to meet our boat, *Stingray*, and skipper, Pete. The boat was a clamber down a metal ladder on the harbour wall: butterflies for those sensitive to heights. Kit was winched down and stowed, and we were away.

First dive was to **Skelly Hole**, a lovely drift with a varied rocky bottom teeming with life – deadmen's fingers, sponges, anemones like dahlia, daisy and plumose, sea urchins, common and bloody henry starfish and the massive common sunstar. Fish were plentiful with several large ballan wrasse swimming around among an assortment of crabs – hermit, swimming and edible, and lobsters in pots.



Hermit crab

I was lucky to dive with Paul S as my trainee: behaved impeccably despite being in a wetsuit and doing a few Tigger impersonations to keep warm.



Paul Stone

Our second dive was to **Wuddy Rocks**, which proved popular with many, including welcome new HSAC faces, Sonya and David.

Paul and I were amongst the bigger rocks finding sheltered areas harbouring the smaller life such as tiny prawns, Polycera nudis (seaslugs) and again more lobsters and starfish.



Sun star

Sadly Phil's stomach combined with the surface surge kept him on terra firma taking charge of the car keys, and collecting cylinders into the car at the end of the dive—much appreciated by all!

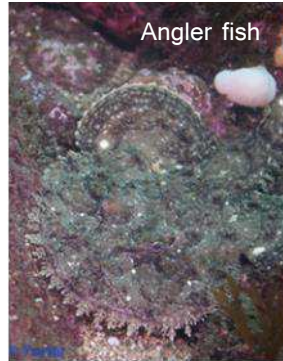
After an energy-boosting powerful hot shower, we had another great meal in the pub, reflecting on the amazingly good vis.



Wall of dead men's fingers

Wednesday, we were off to **Black Carrs**, with calmer sea and great viz as we dropped down onto a lovely rocky bottom with loads of anemones and dead men's fingers. Today was a treat as I was able to take my new camera down for the first time as Paul was so comfortable in the water. We found a trail of dead fish leading to a lobster pot which had another dead fish in it: a bait trail, which was a first for me. There were some good-sized lobsters around—luckily they seemed happier taking the fish away rather than

clambering into the pot. Lovely scenic dive with lots of different sized rocks providing a solid base for the kelp and seaweeds and dead men's fingers to grow on.



Angler fish

Later we visited **Ebb Carrs** which was another lovely scenic dive and again we were spoilt with good viz and abundance of marine life and beautiful colours. We found an angler fish and loads of edible crabs, while Tony and Phil found some wolf fish. We also saw bits of a wreck around the site and some small sealugs on the kelp.

Thursday was back to **Skelly Hole** for some and **Wuddy Rocks** for others; both groups spoilt with the abundance of life and colour. (Thank heavens for digital!) Paul had his ever faithful GoPro and had taken some amazing videos. We drifted with the current amongst the rocks, watching some fairly large schools of fish, again lots of dead men's fingers, daisy, plumose and dahlia anemones providing splashes of colour, and some blue jellyfish.



Blue jellyfish



Sea urchin



Scorpion fish

Second dive at **Black Carr** and Paul and I finally saw our own wolf fish, (Phil and Tony having found several by this stage!) A lovely butterfly was in amongst some sponges, and we found a really tiny long-legged spider crab that had just shed its old shell. Paul had been practicing his DSMB with ever greater skill, leaving me free to hang around with my camera as we ascended.



Squat lobster



Wolf fish

And on to The Farne Islands

A long drive south, down to Seahouses by the Farne Islands, and a lie-down was most welcome before we all met up in the local watering hole, *The Fish Inn*. David and Michael joined the team for this part of the trip.

Early the next morning it was time to load our kit onto a new boat and it was off to re-visit some of the beautiful islands which make up The Farnes: today it was **Little and Big Harcar**. No nice lift on this boat: instead it was a clamber onto the side and then a back roll off — quite a plunge down! The current was sweeping all the brown algae off the rocks so viz was sadly really reduced. After the lovely colours at St Abbs this was like diving in shades of brown, with little to see other than loads of kelp and a really massive lobster. On the second dive, in the centre of **Little Harcar**, viz was greatly reduced again.



A great night in the *Ship Inn* and a good sleep before rising early to a cooked breakfast with great kippers. Then we were off to **Little Harcar** again. This time as we rolled off we landed in a shallow little enclosure and were immediately greeted by seals. One of them decided to have a nibble at Phil which almost gave him heart

failure.... Paul spent 45 minutes sitting on a rock at 6m with his GoPro, playing with the seals, who obligingly came to shake hands and pose for the film. Unfortunately I had changed my lens to macro as the viz had been so bad, but managed to get a few shots.

Off to **the Hopper** after this, where Liz and I had a great time amongst the seals last year, but this year, for some reason they were not interested. The current was pretty strong with quite a bit of upsurge which made things a little interesting, but we did manage to see some pogge as we drifted in the gullies.



Pogge

Paul soon learnt why we hug the rocks when there is a lot of current rather than trying to swim through it and get really tired and use more air.

As the wind was picking up again we decided to call it quits while we were ahead, and forgo the last day of diving and drive home. Probably a wise decision bearing in mind the viz hadn't been all that great from the start in the Farne Islands this time, in stark contrast to the amazing St Abbs.



Paul's lovely, nibble-sized GoPro



Social events

2014 Wine and Food Evening

Wine flowed freely again at the Village Hall in Liphook at another of Tony's 'unforgettable' *Wine and Food* nights. Two wines, lovingly described and poured by wine-master Tim, accompanied each of the four courses of mouth-watering gourmet delicacies carefully crafted by Tony and Anne.

Paul and Mandy are putting together a fun-packed social programme for 2015

Beer Festival – Sat 28th Feb

The beer will be on tap at the Petersfield Beer and Cider festival on Saturday 28th February, and Paul Williams will be organising a HSAC contingent to enjoy the evening while raising a few ££s for the club 'just by drinking beer!' The Petersfield Festival Hall venue is easy access for the train, or see Paul if you'd like to share a taxi. Tickets through Paul.

Quiz and curry - Sat in April (to be confirmed, probably 18th or 4th)

Along the lines of 'Pointless' this time, so non-diving friends will not be at any disadvantage.

Goodwood Races - June.

For some racing followed by music. A Friday in June, exact date to be confirmed, when acts announced (likely to be Friday 5th, 12th or 19th)

Annual Summer Barbecue - Saturday 20th June - this year in Yvette's lovely garden.

Shahanaz - Curry night – in August (possibly 1st, or 15th)

Scalextric at Milland – in September (likely 12th or 19th)

Pig racing and chilli nosh – November

Christmas dinner dance – 5th December

To be organised by the new Social co-ordination team, Paul Stone and Mandy.

There are also plans afoot for a repeat of the ever popular clay shoot (see Paul Williams) and a paintball battle (see Darren).

Facebook

A HSAC profile on Facebook needs your input – please post news and snippets and photos about the Club: <https://www.facebook.com/HaslemereSubAqua>

Website

Grateful thanks to Basil who has undertaken to change the website to WordPress which will make it easier for one or two of us to update things, and take a bit of the work off Russ, who has valiantly been updating the website single-handedly for years, even though he moved away from the area some time ago! Massive thanks to Russ for all his ongoing work!

Club Boats

Gremlins sorted, and Eagle was out at sea on a November Sunday, and she was flying - 30 knots, which nobody had seen out of her before. David pronounced her to be 'basically OK' although 'the fuel in the main tank needs replacing and she needs a new bilge pump'.



The weather was not great, but then it was November, and everyone was wrapped up so well it was hard to see who was who except that David was wearing bright red and a large grin on his face. Everyone had a practice at the helm, and all bodes well for both boats being up for action next season – thanks to David for silencing the gremlins, to Fox and Mike T for towing, to Michael H for organising everyone to make it happen, and to Paul W for providing photos to prove it did.



Boat Maintenance

David will be organising a boat maintenance and compressor day in January, followed by a day out to sea for the boats on 14th March.



Club T-Shirts, rash vests, fleeces

See Paul if you'd be interested in buying some HSAC branded clothing.

2014 Autumn Programme

It was a full and varied programme of events that ran over the summer and autumn while the Herons lay under siege from the refurbishment builders.

Thurs 18th September was another opportunity for practicing **dry suit skills** in the Spectrum's deep pool, and for taking the SAA dry suit exam in the cafe.



An ever-expanding table at the Shahanaz finally accommodated well over 20 members and friends for a fine **curry evening** on Thursday 25th September.

The St Albans church hall in Beacon Hill provided a comfortable and spacious venue for a series of talks and other sessions on the Thursdays during October while the Herons pool remained shut. Grateful thanks to David's wife, Julia, for copious supplies of tea, coffee and biscuits and for deciding she'd better join the motley crew in 2015!

Bryony kicked things off on 2nd October with an introduction to marine life identification and **Seasearch** survey diving, with photos and video of some of the weird and wonderful things that live on the seabed and brighten our dives! Speak to Bryony if you'd like to get involved in Seasearch training and diving in 2015.



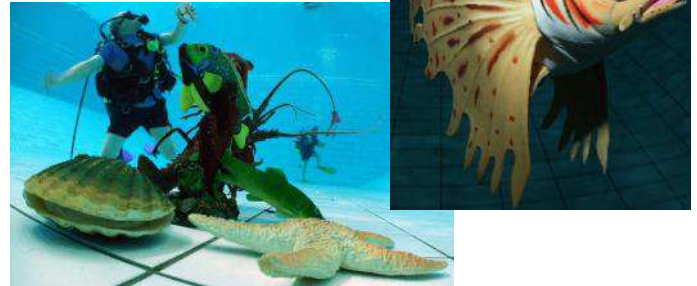
Next week, Nick showed a film exploring the incredible underwater creatures that thrive around the beautiful Indonesian island of **Sulawesi**.

On 16th Oct, long-standing member Sandy Busek imparted some of his extensive knowledge and experience of **managing emergency incidents**, drawing on experiences in the Club, and from his recent role as an emergency first responder. This gave Club members a rare chance to stand back and consider a wider view of an emergency situation, interactions with the emergency services, and post-incident considerations. This was not a conventional first aid lecture; an invaluable insight.

Thursday 23rd October -A carefully measured-out arrangement of church hall furniture set the scene for a **rescue scenario** within the confines of a small boat. Mike T's voice crackled over the radio giving coastguard instructions to David who was grasping a chair leg as the boat throttle, while Bryony administered oxygen to Paul who was acting up with a pain in his shoulder. Anne took scribbled notes of the drama as it unfolded under Nick's stage management, and we all learned a lot.

On 30th Oct, David gave an introduction into some of the key principles of **seamanship for divers**, including rules of the road, navigation, tides weather, rib handling etc.

November was meant to be the first month back to Herons, but, perhaps predictably, the pool was not yet open, so Plan C was wheeled into action. The Spectrum was hired for two Wednesday evenings for some additional **dry suit practice** and a **photography evening** when Mike took some great shots of a selection of aquarium models and a lion fish which Michael managed to hang from his SMB line.



The **AGM** was held on Thursday 27th November at the St Albans Church Hall, with more tea and coffee, and some tiny mince pies. Members enjoyed a quick canter through reports on the Club's activities throughout 2014. A new membership fee was agreed, and a few new members 'volunteered' to take on roles on the 2015 committee. Welcome then to the committee to Darren, Mandy, Paul and Francis, and welcome back onto the committee to Fox and Yvette, back for another stint. Grateful thanks to all those Committee members who stood down, after putting in masses of effort and doing a really grand job for the Club - some for many, many years! Thank you Mike Trussler, Steve Trussler, Sandy Catnach, Tony Barton, Steve Bond and Chris Pitts.



The much-treasured **Novice of the Year** award had emerged from a year in hiding somewhere, was briefly shown to 2013's winner, David Longhurst, before being snatched back to present to Paul Stone for 2014.

This award is given to a new member who has not only done well with his or her training, but has also made a really positive contribution to the Club.



Training

Liz is organising a range of exciting SAA courses and assessments including Rescue Diver, Diver First Aid and Oxygen Admin, Nitrox, and a Powerboat Level 2 course – make sure you don't miss out - see Liz to get your name on the list. If there's something else you'd like to do, the SAA will put on a course for a few people, so speak to Liz.

It is Club policy that there have to be present on board our Club boats at all times at least one qualified boat handler, VHF radio operator and oxygen administrator - so do get yourself on Liz's lists to help make sure there are always enough for the boats to go out!



Lectures

Lectures started with Dive Leader for the Thursday evenings in January.

The series of 4 Dive Supervisor lectures will also be done on a weekend day, for Nick, Yvette, Mike T and anyone else that would like to do them. Anyone would be welcome to attend these lectures, even if you're not wanting to take the exams. Speak to Bryony or Liz.

Pre-Christmas drinks at Mill Tavern

On the last Thursday before Christmas, following on from a demo from Steve of how to change the filters on the club compressor at the boatshed, the back room of the Mill Tavern was filled with animated pre-Christmas chatter as members and friends gathered and met up with old members, Basil and Tracy, back in Haslemere for a while from their Romanian home, and Paul and Suzy, back for a while from their campervan travels around the country.

Haslemere Sub-Aqua Club is an active diving, training and social Club, welcoming both qualified divers and new trainees at any time throughout the year. We meet and train at The Herons Pool, Kings Road, Haslemere GU27 2QA every Thursday evening, except at Christmas, and in the summer holidays, when an alternative programme of events is organised. We organise a full programme of diving throughout the summer in the UK, as well as Club holidays abroad.

As a member of the Sub Aqua Association, Haslemere Sub-Aqua Club (SAA 259) follows the SAA diver training programme, leading to qualifications which are recognised world-wide. The training is designed to build confidence and enhance skills through a series of lectures, pool sessions and open water dives. Experienced instructors provide one-to-one and group tuition in a friendly environment.

www.haslemere sub aqua club.com

info@haslemeresubaquaclub.com

Christmas Dinner Dance 2014

The annual dinner dance was held on Saturday 6th December, joining in a larger gathering at Old Thorns, where clearly everyone in the building had paid heed to Sandy's helpful instructions that "*the dress code is whatever you like*".

Back to the Pool

Thursday 8th January and, after a forced absence of over 6 months, Haslemere Sub Aqua Club was finally back in what used to be known as The Herons and is now the Haslemere Leisure Centre. The swimming pool is much as before, the changing area refurbished, with orange tiles now brightening up the showers. Thanks to David, Michael, Francis and Phil for returning all the training kit to our cupboard.

2015 Committee

The first meeting of the new committee, and Nick's sitting room was full. Tea, mince pies and crisps were flowing freely and Fox got things off to a fine start.

The next meeting was in January at Yvette's when copious supplies of tea and biscuits helped along the general discussions and specific plans for the annual open night.



Subscriptions

Please remember to delve into your pockets and pay Michael for your membership for 2015.

