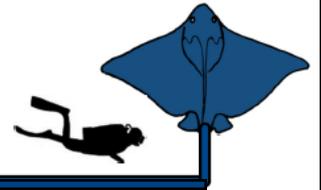


FISH TALES

November 2015

Haslemere Sub Aqua Club



DIVING

ISLES OF SCILLY

August was in full swing when we left for the Scilly Isles, diving boat and B&B booked and travel arranged by Liz.



With wind whipping up some waves, and a mix of interests and diving levels, rebreather and open circuit, it was a challenge to find dive sites suitable for all,

but the sun shone, the islands provided some shelter and our lovely skipper gave us a variety of beautiful dives — from historic to new wrecks, reefs, jewelled walls of anemones, cannons, historic trails, playful seals and sandy bays reminiscent of scenes from James Bond!



Thanks to Liz for putting on a great Club trip, and to Mandy and Darren for sorting out our varied evening venues—which included a boat trip, a wander round the coast, a wildlife talk and a gig at the Mermaid.



SWANAGE

A great day of dives under the pier in early October, with Nick carefully orchestrating training dives and skills tests to get lots of training sheets signed off.



Steve sums up the day

"Swanage Day Trip includes Dragged Divers Ambulance and a Bomber"



Fortunately the Ambulance was not for us, Darren and David L were happy for the Tow to the Pier, and the Photo Bomber was Nick.



Great day's Diving in great company organised by Francis.



VOBSTER

Well done to Francis for organising a final diving visit of the year to the quarry at Vobster, Somerset. Forecast was looking good, water temperature reports seemed to be staying above 10°C, and there was the temptation of a Halloween treasure hunt with hidden tokens to find.



HSAC occupied the benches nearest the entrance, there was plenty of room in the adjacent car park, and we were soon all striding or shuffling into the old limestone quarry, exploring the various sunken boats, cars, buildings and aircraft.

Rob, Francis and David prepared their dive plans before doing two dives each, accompanied by Bryony or Yvette who hadn't quite frozen after three dives each!



Training drills were done, perching beside perch on the scaffold platforms.

Photo David Longhurst

Liz, Michael and Phil teamed up to explore the quarry.



Nobody found a treasure token, but Liz kept appearing with hot cups of tea from the cafe, and Francis had brought along some chocolate crispies, so all was well.

For the final dive everyone headed for the bits of plane beyond the far end of the complex —either waddling round for a stride in or doing a surface swim.



PLYMOUTH

Thanks to Paul for organising a trip to Plymouth in mid September, based at the Mountbatten Dive Boat Charter, diving on the beautiful and plentiful wrecks and reefs around the area.

SOCIAL

SLOT CARS 18th Sept

It was everyone for themselves on the 4-car track, racing Star Wars speeder bikes, formula one, trucks, or cars, including a police car with siren blaring - speeding off the track to disqualification or making it round the corners to cross the finishing line first.



Vats of curry arrived to keep us going, drinks flowed and Phil walked away with the trophy



Annual Boatshed Barbecue 20th August 2015

It was a lovely evening, despite a little drizzly rain. Many thanks to Mandy and Darren for organising, David for shed and compressor management, Mike as Chef, Yvette for salads and the rest of you who supported our pleasant evening. See Liz for a wicked pickle recipe!

Boatshed keys - Thanks to Sandy for getting us a brand new lock and several spare keys for the gate to the boatshed area after the council lost the last lock.

Christmas Dinner

A change from the usual dinner dance, this year we're having a quieter evening in the lovely surroundings of Churt Village Hall, with one room for dining and chatting and a smaller one for some music and dancing.

TRAINING

Big thanks to Liz who has been organising a series of informative and entertaining Thursday evening sessions over the year.

Spectrum

6th August was an opportunity to try dry suits and set off dSMBs in the deeper water of the Spectrum in Guildford.

Back to the Pool

10th September, we were back at the pool in Haslemere after the summer break.

Get Knotted 17th September

Many thanks to Darrin who took us carefully through splicing a neat and stylish loop in the end of a rope and sending rabbits up holes and round trees, rounding turns and halving hitches.



After this, we went into the pool to put to the test our new knotting skills and the capabilities of our various knives and other cutting implements.



Learning from Experiences 24th September

Nick led us through a really helpful discussion about some of those dives that didn't quite go according to plan, what went wrong and how we might avoid those things happening again.



Spring clean

After the dry session, we took nets and sieves and set about collecting some of the muck that wafts around on the bottom of the pool - ugh!

Buddy Checks 8th October

Making sure the ABCDE buddy check is clear and used in a standard way in all training (recognising that some qualified divers have adopted other mnemonics).



Marshalling - 15th October

The duties around dive marshalling, and what to put where on the dive log sheet, including baseline health before the dive and records of training done on the dive.

What does a Yellow SMB mean?

Following the precautionary lowering of a spare cylinder when Chris put up his yellow SMB in the Isles of Scilly, he "brain dumped the whole yellow DSMB thing", and will hopefully be persuaded to run a Thursday discussion session on the resulting document.

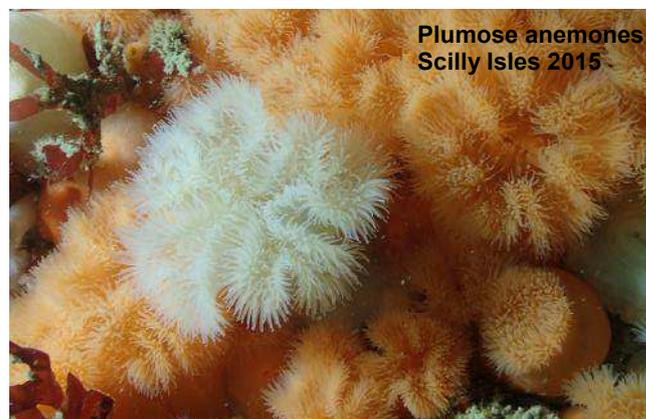


2016 DIVING PLANS

Liz organised a show of photos of the 2015 Scilly trip, and a discussion on where to go next year. Plans so far:

Return to Scilly

Liz has secured a few places in mid August next year, diving with skipper David McBride, as in 2015. Website <http://www.divescilly.com/>. There is lots for partners to do on the islands apart from diving. See Liz if interested.



Plumose anemones
Scilly Isles 2015

Red Sea

Paul has 6 on the list to go to the northern Red Sea and Straits of Tiran in July 2016, having negotiated a good rate for 5 days of diving from a Blue O Two liveaboard. Speak to Paul if you're interested in going.