



Ocean Diver Dive Club

NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 40
Month September
Year 2014

Welcome to the Autumn!
We bid goodbye to the lovely British August weather and look forward to some calm autumn sunshine... hopefully. It is time to set our sights on the club winter entertainments and on the trips for next year. But not before I let you know what we got up to in the windy August weather, of course!

Despite not getting to do any shore dives off the coast we did still have a good couple of weekends, with divers from the club head to various inland sites.

Shaun was so upset about missing Plymouth this year that he went and sunk his sorrows in the chilly depths of Vobster in Somerset.

Kevin and Lawrence were also missing Plymouth and headed to the wonderful Chepstow for a deep splash and to try and work out how their dive computers work... Kev's is now being operated by a mastermind computer genius, while apparently Lawrence's has developed some user related bugs....

I headed down there myself on the beautiful and gloriously sunny (?) Bank holiday Monday with Paul, Vicky and Stratis for a bit of fun in the crystal clear waters...

- This Month
- September Diving
- Upcoming events
- Coming next year... trips!
- School stuff
- And finally....



Paul and Rob had visited Divers Cove, the weekend after he certified as an open water and dry suit diver, for a splash. That's dedication, DMTs take note! But sadly the visibility had not improved at all and so that was why we all headed to sunny Chepstow for a great couple of dives!

Trips for 2015...



Weymouth April 2015
To start the 2015 diving season off in the best way. Scallops anyone?!

www.oceandiver.co.uk



Pembrokeshire, May 2-4 2015
Another long bank holiday weekend trip. Some of the best diving in the UK.
ONLY £260!!!

www.oceandiver.co.uk



Plymouth June 13-14 2015
The wonderful Plymouth for an early summer dive weekend.
ONLY £160!!!

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Red Sea trip August 2015
Wrecks and Reefs tour of the north, suitable for advanced open water divers of all ages!

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We also held our second, club, summer barbecue. Once again we are indebted to the wonderful Pam for the loan of her little house, garden and barbecue. Oh yes and not forgetting the paddling pool of course!

Huge thanks also goes out to the members of the committee and the club members who helped provide cooking, food, salads, drinks, cake,



stories and of course the great company and conversation.

Thankfully the August weather gave us a break with the sun out for at least 5 minutes during the day! I know that all the kids, big ones and small, had a great time in the pool and ate til they thought they would burst. We really must make this a more regular, annual event!

Lastly, big congratulations to our club secretary and the treasurer, better known to you all as Jen and Matt. After many years avoiding the millstone of a mortgage they have finally taken the plunge and are now proud owners of their own home. At least, they own some of it, the bank owns a tiny bit too I believe!





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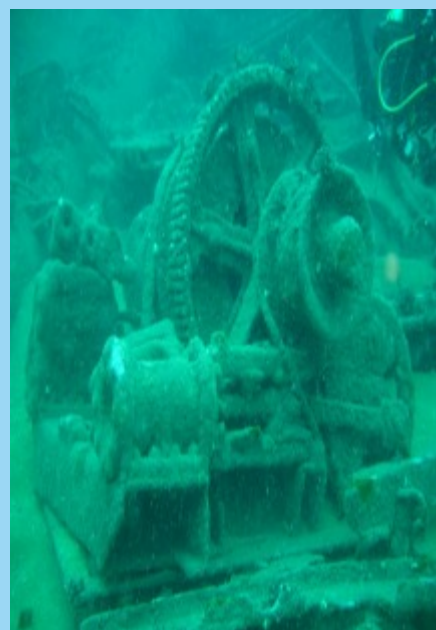
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Having checked the tides for September and the rest of 2014, since I am ever the optimist for a sneaky beach or boat dive, even in winter! I can see that the best weekend dates for the neap tides are September 20th /21st, October 18th /19th, November 15th /16th and either December 13th/14th or 20th/21st. Obviously where we go will depend on when slack water occurs and where the conditions are best but I am hopeful

That said I am determined to be going diving somewhere those weekends, apart from the September ones which I have booked up already sadly. Even if the weather is rubbish I will head to Divers Cove, Chepstow or somewhere equally wonderful for a dive, so keep your eyes on the Facebook page, Twitter or email for updates. I am sure the DMs will be out diving over the next few months too so there is



no need to hang up your fins just yet! I am also looking at a trip to Swanage or Weymouth on November 15/16 (or both if people want a weekend away). If anyone is interested could they let me know ASAP?

paul@oceandiver.co.uk



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Next Year's Trips

We still trying to finalise the plans for next year's Red Sea Trip which will of course be our big trip of the year. We are planning on heading up to the Northern Wrecks and Reefs to do such mythical dives as the wreck of the Thistlegorm, amongst others. Details should be ready for the next club meeting, and of course all club members will be able to book onto the trip at the reduced club member price before we open the trip up to friends and other dive clubs.

Watch this space!



I have also nearly finished sorting out next year's club UK trips.

Starting the year, as those of you who know me well, will expect.... In Weymouth. Still not finalised the full details and costs for this weekend away, but it will be the weekend of April 11/12, the one right after Easter. Further details (including the price for club members and non members) will be available once dates and tides have been checked and the accommodation sorted out.

Once again, watch this space!

The latest list of club trips dates and costs will be on the next page and of course I will get them up on Facebook and the club website over the next few days. I will also put up a paypal button so you can pay via credit card, although there will be the usual small fee for this.

We will, of course, be running our usual day trips to quarries like Chepstow, Divers Cove and Vobster as well as shore dives and local boat dives from Newhaven, Selsey and Littlehampton.



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Club Trips 2014/2015



Weymouth/Swanage, November 15/16 This year!

I need to get numbers and deposits very quickly if you wish to go, so please text or email your interest to me. I will see what I can arrange for whatever numbers wish to come, but you will need to be quick for this one!

Cost: Depends on numbers interested



Weymouth, wrecks, reefs and scallops, April 11/12

To start the year off the Ocean Diver way; with some wrecks, some reefs and drift diving and of course some scallop hunting. Diving with Skindeeper and a trip suitable for all levels of diver, as long as they have a drysuit and SMB!

Cost: Not confirmed yet



Pembrokeshire, Wrecks and reefs, May 2/3/4

This is our only longer UK club trip this year, sneakily taking place over the bank holiday to save you taking too many days off! Back diving with Brian again and a trip suitable to advanced divers and above.

Cost to club members: **ONLY £260 Each**



Plymouth, Wrecks and more wrecks (and maybe a scallop or two)

Back down to see Steve in Plymouth for some fantastic wreck dives on the Scylla, James Egan Layne and many many more! Plymouth is one of those places that you can go dive no matter what the weather throws at us. Suitable for all divers advanced open water trained and above.

Cost to club members: **ONLY £160 Each**



Ocean Diver Red Sea tour 2015, Northern wrecks and reefs, Early August

Taking the Ocean Diver club members to the north of the Red Sea to some of the best wreck dives the world has to offer. This itinerary includes the Thistlegorm, among many others, and is suitable to divers with advanced open water certification. A fantastic trip!

Cost: Still waiting for details



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The Dive School

Its on!

After only a few months of avoiding the inevitable, Rob has finally decided (been persuaded!) to finish his rescue course. We will be doing the pool skills on Saturday 13th and be in the lake on Sunday 14th for a bit of a play. If any rescue divers would like to come and help to refresh their skills they are more than welcome to, and if any one else would like to come and see what Rob is capable of,



and helping him on the rescue scenarios then he would, I am sure, be most appreciative!



We are heading down to wonderful Chepstow on the 4/5th October for an advanced course with Karen, Paul, Kerri and Adrian. If anyone fancies coming along for a weekend of fun with us, or just coming down to join us for one of the two days then please let me know.

paul@oceandiver.co.uk

If you are intending staying over night, we are staying at the Hilton, and it has a swimming pool too for those of us who have not had enough of the water!

We will be doing navigation, multilevel and wreck dives on Saturday and doing the deep and the search and recovery dives on Sunday.

Narcosis awaits!



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The Dive School

It has been quite a fun August for the school too with some new divers, some new tropical water divers and some old divers refreshing skills.

New additions and changes to the open water course have meant that I have had to have a rethink about how the open water course runs but as i said last month, the changes are all good!

Some of the changes are, a mini dive in the pool on the confined water dives so that you get to have a little practice on your own before venturing to open water. A more condensed couple of open water dives allowing the new diver to practice skills such as SMB use as well as all the usual skills, making the course much more appropriate for divers in the UK where we all use SMBs. And the best change of all (in my humble opinion) is the the final dive where the students actually plan and execute the whole dive with minimul input from the instructor, preparing the students for when they qualify and can go and dive with their buddy without an instructor and divemaster watching everything they do.

Congratulations this month to....

Paul Pryke, Vicky Colquhoun, Kerri Hoskings and (a little late but I did finally certify him!) Rob McSorley who have all completed either their open water, dry suit or night diving courses this month with Ocean Diver Dive School.





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The next pool session

We are back in the pool on Saturday September 13th from 15.00 to 16.30

The October session will be on Saturday 11th, not the 4th since we are in Wales!

Don't forget it is free for members, but £5.00 for non members, have YOU renewed this year?!



The next club meeting

We are holding the next club meeting on October 7th. We will be at the Whyteleafe Tavern as usual and will start at the usual time of 8pm for drinks and a catch up, with the meeting called to order at 8.30pm.

Please do come and support your club!



We hope to see you diving this month....

But if not we really hope to see you at the next club meeting or in the pool.

Happy Diving

The Committee!