



Note from the Chair

2017 is proving to be a busy year for the Trust. Besides all the regular training and qualifications being gained other events have been organised with great success.

The Dive Lectures proved to be our best fund raiser so far and the two representatives, Amanda Newton and Kaisa Muhonen, who spoke so enthusiastically about the Trust were excellent.

This was followed by the fantastic Mexico trip. Watching our group glide through a Cenote was a real highlight.

Then we finally managed to stage the long-awaited party. This was a great success thanks to the hard work and planning of several people and a great venue. The event also managed to raise a good amount for the Trust. Thank you to all involved.

Some of you still have the Live Aboard to look forward to. This is another first for the Trust and it will be interesting to see how it all works out.

We can all look forward to the Dive Show where plans are under way for a good show, raising funds and just as important spreading the word about the work of the Trust.

The Trustees are considering offering some targeted Try Dive events for people with disabilities. This will enable groups or individuals a relaxed taster-session to experience breathing underwater and to meet Trust members. If you know of the contact details of any individuals or groups who you think might benefit from such a session please let me know.

Thank you to all the members and supporters who continue to make 2017 an excellent year for the Trust.

Eric

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Courses and Certifications

Congratulations to:-

Liam Coffey, who qualified as a PADI Dive Master. It took a lot of hard work and one or two heated moments but he got there.

Harrison Quarterman, who qualified as a PADI Junior Open Water Diver in August.

Peter Grammer, who qualified as a PADI Open Water Diver in August.

Sarah Mingay and Mike Sparry qualified as PADI Advanced Open Water Divers.

Simon Licence and Sarah Mingay also completed their Deep Diver speciality.

Course in progress: - PADI

One Assistant Instructor, three Dive Masters in training, two Rescue courses, one Open Water and two Seal Team students are progressing well.

Course in progress: - BSAC

Two Ocean Diver students.

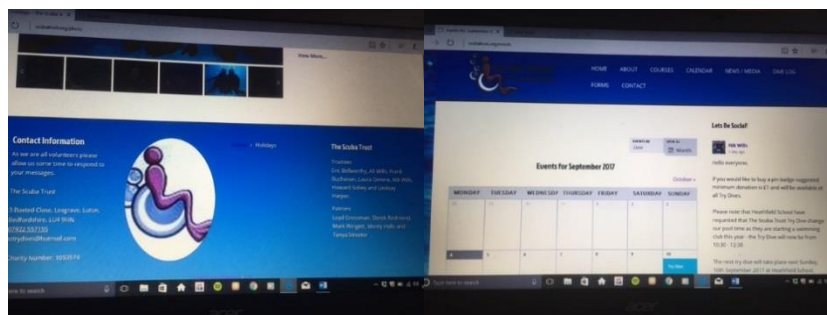
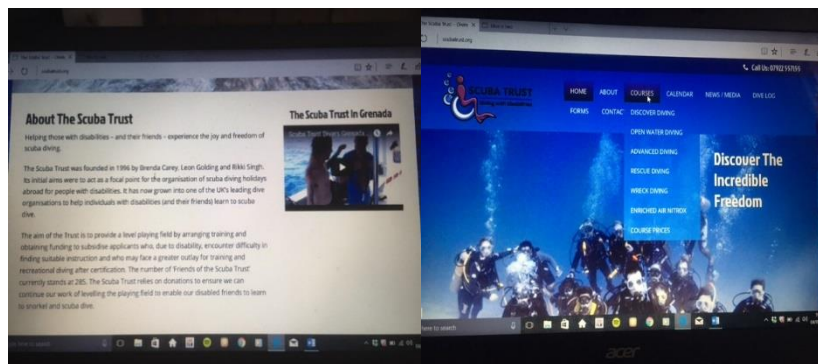
A big thank you to all the Instructors and helpers who are helping or have helped on all above courses.

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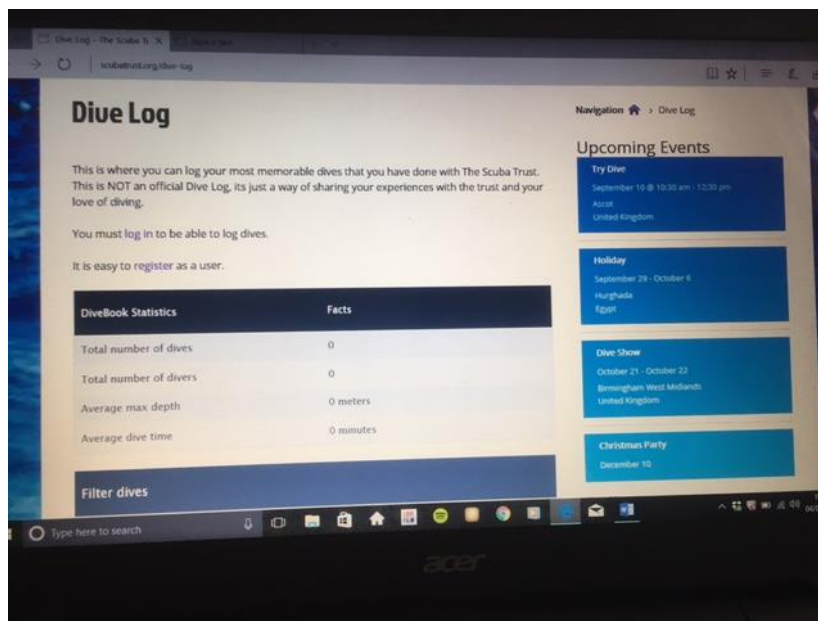


Scuba Trust new website.

The new website is just about ready to go on-line thanks to Liam Coffey, who designed and built it. Here are a few sneak previews:-



Founder Members: Leon Golding, Brenda Carey and Alan Myers
 Trustees: Ali Wills, Frank Buchanan, Laura Greene, Nik Wills, Howard Sobey, Eric Bellworthy and Lindsay Harper.
 Patrons: Loyd Grossman, Derek Redmond, Mark Wingett, Monty Halls and Tanya Streeter



The new site has loads of new features including Dive Log which allows members to log their dives, once they set up a password. Also the Scuba Trust Face Book page has been incorporated so visitors to the website will also see Face Book posts. With Liam's help the new website should be on-line in the next week. Watch this space.

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Scuba Trust Van

The Scuba Trust van has once again undergone its yearly service and MOT. This year it required some more remedial work to get it through the test, however it is back in service for another year, thanks to Dale and his connection, which saved the Trust a considerable amount of money.

The Trust Van under Dale and Michael's stewardship is staying well-organised and with the help of all those who attend the pool sessions it can be kept that way.

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THE SCUBA TRUST INVASION OF THE IBEROSTAR RESORT, COZUMEL **2017.**

It was just like any other morning. Not too hot, not too cold, not sunny, nor raining. Who would have guessed that this non-descript morning would see the coming together of the most motley, cut throat, villainous group in all Christendom. I refer of course to the purple shirted Scuba trust gang. There was the butcher of Walthamstow, two mean bikers, the Bedford mafia, 'Hang-em high' Buchanan and his moll, Karate Neil, Eric the Strange and an unsavory character with a foreign accent who claimed to come from Belgium, to name but a few. We were off on an adventure that would see us cross oceans (thanks to Virgin Atlantic), trek for miles (in minibuses), take to the high seas again (by ferry) to finally arrive at the Iberostar Cozumel.



The next day was a relaxing day as we got over the travelling of the previous day. The resort was lovely with flamingos and iguanas lazing in the heat. Not to mention the rare humming bird flitting from flower to flower. There was an extravagant choice of food at every meal sitting, even including burgers and hot dogs for the uncouth Americans. We all started to feel at home. This was helped by the butcher of Walthamstow supplying the tennis ball and Frisbee so essential to the entertainment of

those around the pool.

The following day we met at 8am to have our first diving day with Dressel Divers. We were introduced to our guides Ryan and Aaron. Aaron was American and Ryan hailed from Scotland but we instantly forgave them and became good friends by the end of the holiday. The first dive was a drift dive. The reefs at Cozumel are often prone to currents, and today was no exception. I was in the second group led by Aaron and immediately upon descending we saw a nurse shark swimming by and later came across a turtle. This set the scene for the diving to follow which never failed to excite us. From black tipped reef sharks to sea horses, Moray eels to six foot long barracudas. The sea life was different from Egypt. Not quite so colourful and profuse but different and captivating in its own right. Juvenile Drum fish and Splendid Toad Fish were just two of the species

you would not see in the Red Sea. Aaron and Ryan were great professionals and the whole experience was greatly enhanced by their contributions.

Frank and Amanda did a wonderful job of instructing Sarah Park and Mike Sparry. They both completed their advanced courses. Deep dive specialties were also completed by Sarah Mingay and Simon Licence. Well done everyone!

All fifteen of us signed up for the excursion to the mainland to dive in a cenote. These are a system of caves and sink holes carved away from the limestone over thousands of years creating underwater caves and passage ways which link together for miles and miles, renowned for their beauty. Shafts of light penetrate the roofs of the caves and create spellbinding effects. After a taxi ride and then the ferry to the mainland we were met by the cenote dive guides in Playa Del Carmen and whisked off to their base. Here we



collected weights and cylinders and headed off towards our chosen cenotes. After a short time on the main dual carriageway between Playa Del Carmen and Tulum we turned off up a dirt road. After six kilometers we arrived at the Kukulkan and Chuk Mool cenotes. There were other groups at the cenote but I bet they had never seen a group like us. We assembled our kit. Some of us had come across one of the guides when we had visited three years before. A very large six foot eight inch tall German called Olaf, who promptly gave piggy backs for our wheelchair users down the steps to the first cenote. The temperature in the cenote was 22 degrees, a little cooler than the sea at 28 degrees and a welcome respite from the heat of the jungle. As bats flew in and out of the cave we dropped down and went off in groups of four or five. We were treated to a lovely show of stalagmites and stalactites. We surfaced half way through to see tree roots dropping through the roof of the cave and into the fresh clear water of the cenote. The way the roots poured themselves into the water gave rise to their name 'elephant's foot'. They were quite a sight. All too soon the first dive was over and we relocated, some via the

back of Olaf, to the other cenote, Chuk Mool. After a short interval were we heading off again into the cavern. Most of us can recall photographs in magazines showing divers silhouetted against a shaft of green light as they bravely explore the cenote ahead. My view differed very slightly. There would be the familiar line of divers except in the middle of the line there would be one diver standing vertically in mid water not wearing any fins and making progress with a breast stroke action and webbed gloves. Yes, the Scuba Trust gang woz 'ere all right! With torch light dancing wildly around the rocky surrounding we came to the end of a memorable experience for everyone. Thank you, Dressel, and thank you, Olaf!



A couple of days later the weather turned slightly stormy. We were due to be diving the Palancar caves which is a series of rocky architecture ideal for swim-through. This morning the surface was a bit choppy and during the dive we were caught in some weird down currents caused by cool water at the surface sinking and the warmer water below rising up. When we finished the dive, we surfaced to find that the swell had increased and this made getting back on the boat a little more challenging. Sporting a few bruises as souvenirs of the endeavor we decided to cancel the second dive. We returned to the jetty where some of us saw that the weather had died down and it was suggested that we do the house reef Paso Del Cedral. Six of us dived in and found the current had turned into a gentle drift and we were treated to turtles, rays and I got some great footage of a nurse shark foraging under a rock. When we returned to the hotel we were asked by those who had decided not to do the second dive if we had had a good dive. We tried to lie as convincingly as possible but the smile on our faces gave it away.



On one of our days off from diving some of us decided to go on a tour of the island. We visited the town of Cedral. This had a small Mayan temple the size of a garden shed with a Mayan warrior dressed up for us tourists outside to take photographs of. We then went on for a drink in a reggae bar at the bottom of the island. The ceiling was festooned with tee shirts pinned to the roof in typical Caribbean style. So we signed everybody's name on a spare tee shirt of our own and got it pinned up. It reads 'Scuba Trust 2017' and on the bottom below everyone's names it said Bazza West's favourite catchphrase 'ONE LIFE, LIVE IT!'

All too soon the last dive of the holiday came along and as is customary a couple of us did it in fancy dress. Liam sported a fine 'bottle-of-Tequila' outfit whilst Dee is still receiving counselling over my effort.



On the last night we had a super meal in the A La Carte steakhouse restaurant in the resort. We invited our dive guides as our guests and had a lovely evening together. All in all it was one of the best Scuba Trust holidays I have ever been on and I would like to thank every member who came and made it so special.

Howard Sobey

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Scuba Trust's 21st Birthday



Sunday July 9th saw a fitting celebration of the Scuba Trust's 21st Birthday. The sun shone, which is a rare event in itself, and certainly helped the celebrations.

Caroline kindly hosted the event and project-managed Eric, Nik and Ali through the now famous spreadsheet! The preparation paid off with a variety of Mexican-themed food (a tribute to the recent Trust holiday) and drinks which were donated to maximise funds raised

The event was supported by members and friends old and new, including people who bought tickets despite being unable to attend. It was great to see Chris and Julie Babb and to have a good catch up with them. Lots of chatter and fun ensued.

Special thanks go out to Howard for bringing the ramps.



Additional funds were raised by a raffle; special thanks to Laura for sorting out prizes and to Michael Apps for his prize donation.

The celebrations concluded with Alan cutting a masterpiece of a cake made by Sue, which was delicious like the meringue she made.

A great time was had by all and a magnificent £700 was raised for the Trust.

Ali Wills

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Facebook & Twitter

A big thank you to everyone who post on our Twitter and Facebook pages, to Pippa Ashley who monitors Facebook for us and to Suzanne Harper who looks after our Twitter account.

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Regalia

We now carry a stock of Scuba Trust Hoodies in Navy Blue £15.99 and Polo Shirts (Navy, Maroon & White) in a range of sizes - £12.99 each. All items have the Scuba Trust logo individually embroidered on them. These can be purchased at any pool session or we can post at additional cost.

Hoodies



Polo shirts





Try-Dive pool sessions

A few polite reminders -

Please remember that pool sessions start at 10.30 a.m. and finish at 12.30pm prompt (unless otherwise stated), and we have to be out of the pool by 12.30pm as there is often a group following on. Please plan to arrive for 10 a.m.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school grounds. This is not our policy but the schools and must be adhered to. If you wish to smoke you must leave the school grounds.

Also it would be appreciated if kit you are using was broken down and returned to the van. If you are teaching it is good practice for students to carry this out as part of their course and everyone's help is appreciated in clearing up.

If during a pool session you notice a problem with any piece of Scuba Trust kit, please attach a completed **RED** tag and place the faulty item on the seat in the front of the van. This will greatly assist us in keeping all kit in a serviceable condition.

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Spreading the message

Many of the instructors are now able to teach a full range of PADI, BSAC, DE and DDI courses so we are able to spread the enjoyment of diving further.

Do you know of any organisations that would benefit from hearing about Scuba Trust, and how regardless of the disability, diving is an accessible activity?

Please contact any of the Trustees who will be happy to help.

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