

Winter 2015

Certifications

Congratulations to Dee Coffey and Simon Licence on completing their Advanced Open Water and Nitrox courses whilst we were away in the sunny Red Sea. To Daria Gliszczynska and Jackie Buchanan on completing their Rescue course on the trip to Marsa Alam.

Holiday to Marsa Alam

If you follow the Scuba Trust Facebook and Twitter you will have seen a lot of the photo's posted of the fantastic time the group, here's the full story!

Marsa Alam by the 'Tea Lady'



It seems to me that a Scuba Trust holiday can be rather like a cocktail. Some strong, good quality spirits combined with fizzy mixers- adjusted to the individual palate, of course. Some prefer quite a lot of fruitiness, others a smidgen of spice, but swizzled up together, the result is a very convivial party!

As we all mingled at Gatwick North Terminal, there were some looking forward to a relaxing week, and others anticipating the challenge of new experiences and courses.



Arriving late in the evening, November 7th, at Marina Lodge, Port Ghalib, Marsa Alam, it was wonderful to be met by Mostafa Allam, who has become one of our favourite dive guides, having looked after us and guided us on previous Scuba Trust holidays in his work with Extra Divers. It took a while for all of us to get settled into our rooms, but everyone was anticipating a great day's diving in the morning with Mostafa and his friends.

The next day, once we'd all sorted out our dive gear and completed the necessary paper work, we set off for our first day's diving. The Red Sea never disappoints. Excellent visibility, beautiful corals, fascinating fish and an opportunity to gently remind ourselves of old skills and introduce ourselves to new ones.

Daria and Jackie knew at some stage they would have to face challenging scenarios to complete their Rescue Diver courses. Their teamwork throughout the whole week proved the value of the course in developing skills, confidence and knowledge, and we're all so proud of their achievements!

Dee and Simon were guided through the diving experiences they needed to complete their Advanced Open Water courses, and managed to add their Nitrox course to their log books too!

Ably supported by his trusty helpers, Glyn enjoyed a couple of excellent dives until a nasty encounter with a mask squeeze left him looking as if he was getting in the mood for Halloween a little early - or doing a poor impression of a masked puffer fish. Unfortunately, this meant a trip to the hospital and no more diving, but Glyn continued to join us on the boat each day.



SCUBA TRUST NEWSLETTER

Diving with Disabilities



Turtles, blue-spotted stingrays, moray eels and so many more of the inhabitants of the reefs around Marsa Alam delighted us each day, and it was at the end of another beautiful dive at Marsa Al Shounni that Daria and Jackie sprang into action to rescue a drunken diver, who strongly resembled Ron, bringing him safely to the surface to dive another day. In the process, Daria was so focused on his rescue, she lost her own BCD. Thankfully one of the guides was able to retrieve it, but it was an impressive sacrifice. We're so proud of their achievements, and they make the team even stronger!



The opportunity to dive Elphinstone came at the end of the holiday and it lived up to its reputation as one of the region's most memorable dive sites. Of course, this meant there were lots of other dive boats there too. The currents surrounding Elphinstone and its geographic location make the corals and sea life a big attraction. And then there are the sharks....

Some of our group had closer encounters than others. Donna decided that she would let Chris have a slightly closer encounter than her, and kindly swam behind him. This was obviously so he could get a better view of the six-foot oceanic white tip that came towards them. It's what dive buddies are for, after all!



Founder Members: Leon Golding, Brenda Carey and Alan Myers

Trustees: Frank Buchanan, Ali Wills, Nik Wills, Howard Sobey, Eric Bellworthy and Lindsay Harper.

Patrons: Loyd Grossman, Derek Redmond, Mark Wingett, Monty Halls and Tanya Streeter



SCUBA TRUST NEWSLETTER

Diving with Disabilities



As well as new experiences, old traditions are important too. The final day at Port Ghalib was marked by a very moving memorial service in honor of King Willie. He was Alan Kenny's pet fly. Willie was a good honest friend for a few hours, and passed away with great dignity. As 'Fly me to the Moon' was sung, and a small obelisk and flowers placed in the hotel garden, I'm sure we left an impression on our fellow holidaymakers. We British have so many strange customs, after all.



All too soon, another Scuba Trust holiday drew to an end, and we head for home, buoyed up by the memories and achievements, spirits recharged by the fun and the friendship. Thank you to all those who organised and assisted and to the wonderful guides and boat crew. Our special good wishes to Mostafa as he prepares for a whole new chapter of his life with his wife here in the UK. We look forward to seeing much more of you in future years.

And we must not forget the beautiful Red Sea...thank you for sharing your treasure with us once again. Until the next time.

Suzanne Harper 'The Tea Lady'

Birmingham Dive Show 24-25 October

Our thanks to Laura Greene for organising this year's show and all the helpers who helped on the stand. We raised the grand sum of £905.94. The stand was busy from the moment the doors opened on both days. Our spot was right beside the main entrance which meant most people came into contact with one of our many yellow shirted helpers. Our thanks to Suunto for their support once again,



donating a Suunto Hel02 as first prize won by Samantha Muir, a Suunto Vyper Air as second prize won by Brett Bagley and 3rd prize a Suunto Vyper won by Alison Holmes. Congratulations to all the prize winners and our thanks to Monty Halls who once again took time out of his busy schedule to pick the winning tickets.

London Dive Show (LIDs)

LIDs 11th-14th February 2016 is a four day show and has been integrated with Outdoor show at EXCEL. Watch this space for more details soon.

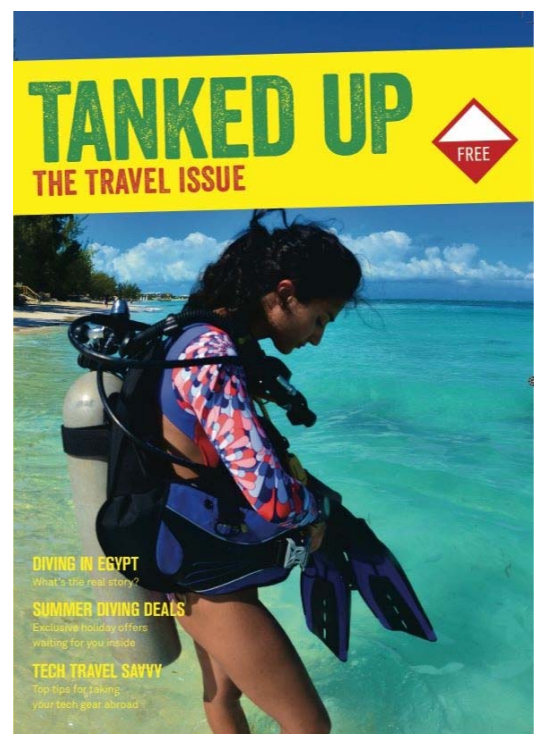


London Dive Lectures

Royal Geographical Society 9th March 2016. This is a date for your diary folks. This year's speakers are Lord Prescott, Graham Hancock and Pat Spain. The Dive Lectures are organized by Jules Eden and Charlotte and the team from The London and Midlands Diving Chambers. This event is one not to be missed and is always packed to the rafters. The evening is in aid of the Scuba Trust and last year £2700 was raised.

Tanked Up

For those of you that are unaware The London Diving Chamber and Midlands Diving Chamber produce a magazine entitled Tanked Up. It is distributed free at the dive shows and the Dive Lectures. This issue has Suzanne Harper's account of the Scuba Trust's trip to Cozumel last year. Well done Suzanne a great piece and some brilliant photo's. Tanked up is an excellent and enlightening read full of interesting articles. We have a few copies available at the pool sessions.





🎄🍷 SCUBA TRUST CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2015 🍷🎄

Yes folks, sorry to bring up Christmas when we've only just reached November but it's time to let me know if you'd like to join us for the annual Christmas lunch. Jennifer Cluney has organised an afternoon of festive fun, frolics, stuffing our faces (politely of course), raffle and the annual awards presentation.

Sunday 13th December from 15:00 (16:00 sit down) at the MacDonald Berrystede Hotel in Ascot. Tickets are £32 per person, which includes a 4 course meal and your raffle entry.

Please let me know by the 25th November if you'd like to join us (including any dietary requirements).

Hope to see you all there.

If you received an award last year please return it to me a.s.a.p. so this year's recipients name can be engraved.

Trustees

Over the last couple of months there have been some changes to our Board of Trustees. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jennifer Cluney, Laura Greene, James Davenport, Paul Murray and Geoff Green for all their hard work over the past years. We welcome to the Board of Trustees, Howard Sobey, Eric Bellworthy, Nik Wills and Lindsay Harper.

Volunteers needed

We need two or three people who are prepared to take charge of running the monthly pool sessions. Nik Wills is responsible for making the arrangements and assigning Instructors/helpers to students. Your responsibilities are to ensure all session attendees sign in and collect any payments due. To be surface cover for the session and liaise with Nik, Instructors and participants.



Holidays 2015/6

The next holiday is to **Hurghada** 10th to 17th May 2016.

7 nights Movenpick Hurghada standard twin ALL INCLUSIVE

Including 5 Days boat diving (2 dives per day) tank/weights

Roundtrip airport transfers & assistance

Price : £899 per person in twin + visa+ Shirt

Single room supplement £99 per week

Egypt Visa fee £25 per person

Trip shirt £15 per person

Please note this is on a first come basis. Ten rooms, 20 places, have been reserved, unfortunately they only have two disabled rooms. Your deposit of £250 secures your place.

The Movenpick is a step free resort and will be the first time the Scuba Trust has used this resort. If our previous experience of Movenpick resorts is anything to go by our time spent there will be good. We will be diving with Divers Lodge, dive operation is on hotel complex so no bus transfers, and their boat has the luxury of a hoist.

October's trip will be to **Sharm el Sheik**. Details will follow as soon as we have itinerary's sorted out.



20 Year Celebrations

2017 will see the Scuba Trust turn 20 years old. Jennifer Cluney is arranging the finer details and we all know how good the Christmas dinners are that Jen arranges. Watch this space for the event of the year, don't miss it.

DE (Depthery Education) Pro's course

Frank is arranging a DE Pro's course 20th-21st Feb 2016. This is open to DM's and above. If you would like to attend or require more info email Frank bucdive98@hotmail.com. Cost of the course is £250 plus registration fee. The course will only run if there is sufficient numbers.

PADI Courses

At present we are running a Rescue diver course, Junior Open water course, Open water course and Nitrox speciality course. There will be an EFR course running in the New Year. If you would like to complete:- an underwater photography course, Advanced Open Water, DM or AI course or any other specialty course speak to one of our Instructors.

Facebook

A big thank you to everyone who post on our Facebook page and to Pippa Ashley who monitors it for us.

Twitter

Our thanks go to Suzanne Harper who manages the Twitter page for the Scuba Trust.



Regalia

We now carry a stock of Scuba Trust Hoodies in Navy Blue £16.99 and Polo Shirts (Navy, Maroon & White) in a range of sizes - £14.99 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 12.30pm and finish at 2.30pm prompt (unless otherwise stated), and we have to be out of the pool by 2.30pm as there is often a group following on.

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.

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.