



Moles Monitor September 2009

The Isles of Scilly 2009 – “ **The Right Touch Tour!**”



An intrepid group of Moles braved the trip in a small plane across to the Isles of Scilly just off the coast of Cornwall, on the day we travelled, the weather wasn't the best, but the worst was to come on Day 2 and 3.

In true Mole style, the thought for most of the first day had been about food, and after unloading our gear from the container, we found ourselves in the Atlantic pub (and grill!), not for the first or last time, over the next days and evenings we single handedly boosted the Scillies local economy, by eating out at every possible opportunity.

Never has “Never knowingly underfed” been so appropriate!

Next day dawned grey, wet and a little windy (and that was just me after the night before!). Gear was loaded onto our Boat “Moonshadow” and we were re introduced to Jo, our skipper for the week, in addition to Jo, her husband Dave was along for the ride (stories of mucky goings on last time round, no doubt to blame!) in reality Jo is pregnant and Dave was doing all the heavy work and wreck finding for a couple of days.





Diving began and we did a number of the famous wrecks on the Scillies including the King Cadwallon, Hather and Plimpton, The Firebrand, the Mando and the Ceeta.

On the first couple of days the moles were concerned explaining that Eddie shouldn't really be blue all over, the weather wasn't the greatest and god forbid certain tour members didn't do a second dive!

After this little blip the Island's micro climate did its best to burn us all to a crisp over the remaining days, searches for waterproofs quickly swapped to hats and sun cream.

One of the other wrecks we dived was the Colossus, a preserved wreck site of a fighting ship, with a diver trail around it to explain what things were, vis wasn't great, but we still got to see lots of artefacts recently uncovered as a result of research and the ever shifting sands.

The final day consisted of retail therapy for some and training for the London To Brighton Ride for others, the famous 5 had an adventure on their push bikes and went in search of burial mounds (mounds of rock!) and lashings of ginger beer (lager shandy and mackerel pate!)

We travelled back on Saturday well fed (There's a surprise) and well relaxed after a great trip, thanks again to Russell for organising it and here's to 2011!



Scilly Mole!! (Malcolm)

Swanage - August Bank Holiday 2009

INSANE or WHAT? By Paul & Pamela Keenan

It has long been said that only a certain type of person belongs and dives with a UK dive club. To this statement, I now put the following thoughts: _

- ! Holiday Starts with 3 hour drive to camp site
- ! Next day up @ 5.30am out of caravan by 5.55am
- ! Queue @ Swanage pier from 6.20am till 7am gate opens
- ! Park and get to café for breakfast.
- ! Dive
- ! Back to camp site and wash for first time that day (well everyone was the same I hope)
- ! Go to Pub
- ! Next day up @ 5.30am out of caravan by 5.55am
- ! Queue @ Swanage pier from 6.20am till 7am gate opens
- ! Park get to café for breakfast.
- ! Dive
- ! Back to camp site wash for first time that day (well everyone was the same again weren't they?)
- ! Go to eat
- ! Next day up @ 5.30am out of caravan by 5.55am AND leave camp site
- ! Queue @ Swanage pier from 6.20am till 7am gate opens
- ! Park get to café for breakfast.
- ! Dive
- ! Drive back home in bank holiday traffic ready for work the next day



Now how can anyone say that's not fun?

17 of us arrived in sunny Swanage, some intrepid souls even camped and we logged around 80 dives.

It was a lovely weekend, the English weather played its usual tricks with both the sun and the sea state, so all plans became fluid (this did include Pamela

(Continued on page 4)

becoming more fluid than most in trying to share her lunch with all on the boat!! Pamela says thanks to Champ for his help and concern during this moment of UPCHUCKING and she is pleased she missed him and that Andy didn't have his camera, (luckily I was already under water). The GPS also decided to join in the fun and took a brief holiday.



The Fleur De Lys became the wreck of choice—in fact 4 consecutive trips! At 12m in a sheltered bay, this little fishing boat sank 5 years ago when being towed in after re-floating from her first sinking as the insurance company suspected foul play. It is a good rummage wreck with lobster, crab, shrimp and plenty of fish. In all a perfect novice dive.

Although Pamela & I left Monday morning, I know everyone enjoyed the weekend. Especially as the sun returned later on Monday.

Thanks to all the people involved.



SWANAGE Old pier legs in front of current pier with Fleur De Lys dive site below cliffs opposite. Old Harry to the right in front of Bournemouth buildings.



Annual Dinner Dance

Chalk Lane Hotel

5th December 2009

Get your posh frocks and DJ's out of mothballs, Paul will be issuing more details and chasing you for tickets, raffle prizes etc. soon!

An introduction to Free Diving 14th November 2009

This course, held in central London, is a mixture of pool and theory work. It is designed to teach techniques to improve air consumption and relaxation underwater. Cost approx £100.

Contact alyson.m@ntlworld.com to reserve a place

See www.notanx.com for more details

2009 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

2nd Pool sessions re-start

12th & 13th Elementary Diver Lectures, contact [Tony Smith](#)

12-19 Oban drive trip; organised by Adam Royce

23rd Try Dive, Leatherhead Leisure Centre, 8:00

Volunteers needed to help people into kit, run swimming tests, generally rave about the club and meet 'n greet on the desk. Let [Tony Smith](#) know if you can help out. Posters have been e-mailed to members.

OCTOBER

24th or 25th Tickets available for Birmingham Dive Show £6.50 in advance or £10.50 on the day. Contact [Aly Mitchell](#)

NOVEMBER

14th Free-diving course (to improve air consumption) details available under special projects, organised by [Aly Mitchell](#)



DECEMBER

5th tbc Annual Dinner Dance

@ Chalk Lane Hotel organised by [Paul Griggs](#)